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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Pope's illness: The Turkish man who shot Pope John Paul II in 1981 released a cryptic statement Thursday wishing the hospitalized pontiff a speedy recovery and urging him to tell the world that its end was near. Mehmet Ali Agca was extradited to Turkey in 2000 after serving almost 20 years in Italy for the May 13, 1981, shooting of the pope in St. Peter's Square. Agca fired two shots, one of which hit the pope in the abdomen as he rode through the square in an open car.

Communist symbols ban: A group of conservative European Union lawmakers from eastern Europe called Thursday for a ban on communist symbols, including the red star and the hammer and sickle, to match a proposed EU ban on the Nazi swastika. The group from Estonia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic said the communist symbols should be included in any ban because of the suffering caused by Soviet-backed regimes in Europe.

Philippines kidnapping: A Muslim extremist has been arrested for the alleged abduction of 20 people in the Philippines, including three Americans, and for suspected involvement in an attack that killed more than 50 Filipinos, officials said Thursday. Aminal Jimlani, a suspected member of the extremist Abu Sayyaf group, was arrested Tuesday after days of surveillance by Philippine intelligence agents, said Police Superintendent Felixberto Candado.

U.N. oil-for-food report: Former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker says his investigation of corruption in the oil-for-food program in Iraq found that program director Benon Sevan engaged in "an irreconcilable conflict of interest" by choosing the companies that bought Saddam Hussein's oil.

Volcker's first report, as outlined by an official close to the investigation and by Volcker himself in an op-ed article in Thursday's Wall Street Journal, found the \$60 billion program "tainted" from top to bottom.

States

Rudolph bombing case: Pieces of the bomb that killed a police officer outside an Alabama abortion clinic matched a detonator described in an explosive device ordered by bombing suspect Eric Rudolph, prosecutors say.



Live fire training: Petty Officer 2nd Class Gary Jones of Misawa Naval Air Station, Japan, goes over the proper procedures for operating an M-16 with Rear Adm. Kenneth W. Deutsch, Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Seventh/Fifth Fleet. Deutsch was at the gun range to participate in a live fire exercise.

The government also says a handwriting expert matched Rudolph's handwriting to cryptic notes jotted in his Bible, which included the words "eye for eye" and "Christian Soldiers requirement."

Mayor's re-election upheld: A state judge upheld the re-election of San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy, rejecting arguments that election officials improperly excluded thousands of voters from his closest challenger.

Superior Court Judge Michael Brenner heard arguments by supporters of Donna Frye, a city councilwoman, that the San Diego County registrar of voters should have counted 5,551 ballots, which could have tipped the election. Murphy won by 2,108 votes.

Boat sinking investigation: A crab boat that sank in the Bering Sea last month was carrying too much weight and the captain had a history of overloading the vessel, according to Coast Guard investigators in Anchorage, Alaska.

Five men on board the Big Valley died Jan. 15, the opening day of the oil crab season, when the vessel sank 70 miles west of St. Paul Island, one of the Pribilof Islands.

Blake trial testimony: When Robert Blake's wife was slain, detectives searching her living quarters found foot lockers crammed with letters from "customers" of her mail-order sex scam but decided not to investigate most of them, the lead detective on the case testified.

Ronald Lo testified in Los Angeles Wednesday that he decided to leave behind most of the letters, which were later discovered by Blake's first attorney, Harland Braun, who publicly revealed them and delivered them to police. Braun contended any of the men killed by Bonnie Lee Bailey could be suspects in her murder.

Church abuse trial: The defense for a defrocked priest accused of child rape amounted to a sole witness: a psychologist who discussed how some repressed memories are really false ones.

Dr. Elizabeth Loftus, a psychologist from the University of California at Irvine, testified that her research shows implanted ideas or suggestions can end up being believed as real by people.

Stories and photo from wire and staff reports

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Death benefit plan draws praise in Pacific

But many say gratuity hike should apply to all killed, in combat zone or not

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

The Department of Defense proposal to boost death benefits for servicemembers is long overdue, many Pacific troops and their families said Thursday.

Adjustments would raise the current Servicemembers Group Life Insurance ceiling from \$250,000 to \$400,000 and bump the death gratuity from \$12,420 to \$100,000 — all nontaxable sums. The new plan, passed after legislation already introduced in the Senate, will be included in President Bush's 2006 budget proposal, to be submitted to Congress next week.

While the Pacific military community gave the gesture a hearty reception, most argued that the maximum payouts should go to families of all who die in military service, not just in war zones.

Some soldiers in South Korea indicated they felt the proposal was a bit tardy, given the millions of dollars awarded to families of victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"I understand for their loss," said Pfc. Marie Gilliam, 29, of Brooklyn, N.Y., who was in New York City that day. "But it's sort of like, they were in the wrong place at the wrong time. We're here all the time."

Spec. Steve Wright, 23, of Cocoa Beach, Fla., has a brother who left last week for his second tour in Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Ga.

"He's got three kids and the oldest is 11," said Wright. "A computer programmer with the 1st Signal Brigade at Yongsan Garrison. \$250,000

it's not enough to put them all through college."

Critics of the new measure might kill the idea by pointing to its hefty price tag, the soldiers conceded, but they say that's a weak argument, especially given the massive spending under way in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sasha Holloway, a Yokota dependent and former airman, said she believes the new package shouldn't differentiate. "It shouldn't be divided," said Holloway, whose husband, Jerel, a staff sergeant with the 37th Communications Squadron, was in Iraq when the war began. "Even if you're not at war, and just went TDY somewhere, it'd be the same

thing.... It's our job, no matter where you're at."

The DOD plan would create an automatic \$150,000 life insurance payment for all troops in combat zones. That coverage and the death gratuity would be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, to include all troops killed in the global war on terrorism.

"The increase is a good idea," said Sgt. Erwin Reyna of Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, Japan. "Although no amount of money is enough to replace the life of a loved one, the extra money would help families get back on their feet. They've still got house payments, car payments and other responsibilities."

That benefit should be distributed equally across the board, he added: "Whether a Marine died in training or in the fight, he still gave his life for his country. That said, people who make foolish choices, like drinking and driving, shouldn't benefit from the increase."

On Okinawa, Petty Officer 2nd Class Seth Burlinson, with the U.S. Naval Hospital's Staff Education and Training section, said he always thought the SGLI's \$250,000 policy was "enough to take care of immediate needs but not enough for the families' future." The new payment "adds a sense of security... the dependents can use the additional money to invest and plan for down the road. It shows the senior leadership is concerned about the dependents of those killed and they're taking the steps to look after them."

The proposed \$100,000 death gratuity, he added, should be paid to families of all servicemembers: "Whether you're killed by a bullet, a motorcycle or a car, it still leaves dependents out in the cold who are trying to support a family."

Vicki L. Strause, an Okinawa spouse and Navy reservist, agreed. Her husband, Staff Sgt. Eric Strause, has seen combat as a Marine infantryman.

Wherever servicemembers are stationed, she said, they work constantly to back others in harm's way. "I've heard," Strause said, "it takes seven Marines to support one infantry Marine on the front line. If a Marine loading supplies bound for Iraq were to be injured while doing their job,

they wouldn't be as valuable as those on the front lines." The infantrymen could not do their job if it weren't for all the others doing theirs."

About 250 airmen from Yokota Air Base, Japan, left for various Southwest Asian locations last month to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Personnel and spouses at Yokota say the timing is right to enhance benefits but some said they were uncertain whether the added death payment should be offered outside the combat zone.

"It's well-deserved," said Staff Sgt. Jared Miller, 730th Air Mobility Squadron. "We're losing more people all at once than in any of our recent previous battles. It was past due for a re-evaluation."

"But it should be for those in combat areas only. I can understand the distinction between being here or the U.S. and being in Iraq. For someone who dies in a car wreck in Iraq, it should be the same benefit, because it's spurred by a combat situation. It shouldn't be the same for car wrecks here or in the United States. The combat aspect is definitely worth recognizing."

Teri Weaver, Greg Tyler and Fred Zimmerman contributed to this report.

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Widows testify to shortfalls in casualty assistance

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Too often, casualty assistance officers don't have the financial and technical information families need when a servicemember is killed, a panel of military widows told Congress on Thursday.

"My assistance officer did the absolute best he could to help me, but he was not educated in the things that came after the funeral, things like insurance, Social Security benefits available for my children," said Tiffany Petty, whose husband, Jerick, was killed in a December 2003 fire-fight outside of Mosul.

"The soldiers who were with my husband in Iraq were the ones who got me a military ID card," Petty said.

She said those soldiers also "were there when I needed someone to talk to, when I needed to hear things about his service."

Petty and other widows were on hand to testify before the Senate Veterans Affairs committee about shortcomings in military death benefits and ways to ease the bureaucratic hurdles families face after a

servicemember's death.

Members of the National Military Families Association and the Gold Star Wives of America complained about inconsistencies with medical coverage, confusing deadlines to switch insurance policies, and a lack of resources for survivors to answer their questions.

Jennifer McCollum, whose husband, Dan, was killed in a plane crash in Pakistan in January 2002, told senators her medical coverage has been disrupted twice over the last three years and she was never informed about financial and legal support services available to her.

At one point, she moved from Florida to California to be closer to an available military treatment facility, only to find out a few months later she could no longer use those medical services.

"I am discovering that casualty assistance is increasingly failing miserably and disgracefully," she said. "Successful assistance is not the rule; it is quite the exception."

Committee members said they are focused on not only improving the compen-

Families of troops killed in war fight for access to loved ones' e-mails
Page 6



Courtesy to Stars and Stripes

Military widows, from left, Tiffany Petty, Jennifer McCollum and Bonnie Carroll testify before the Senate Veterans Affairs committee Thursday about problems they face in receiving military death benefits. They said major changes are needed in the ways families get information on military death benefits.

sation side of military death benefits — several voiced support for increases in the death gratuity proposed by the Pentagon earlier in the week — but also on ensuring families' emotional needs are addressed as well.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said he would like to see those casualty assistance

responsibilities referred in part to civilian counselors, who could provide more consistency than the ever-moving active duty personnel usually assigned to the job.

Widows at the hearing also voiced support for supplying more comprehensive information on college tuition, tax issues and family counseling services.

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Correction

A headline in Friday's edition incorrectly identified the location of a postal incident. A leaking package, which turned out to be harmless, was discovered at Camp Zama, Japan.



Rear Adm. Frederic R. Ruehe, U.S. Naval Forces Japan commander, right, pins a Navy Superior Civilian Service Award medal to the uniform of Sasebo Fire Chief Richard S. Rhode on Wednesday afternoon. Assistant Fire Chief Jerry Clark looks on during the presentation in the administrative building of the fire department at Sasebo Naval Base.

Sasebo fire chief honored by Navy

Rhode receives prestigious civilian award

By GREG TYLER
Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Richard S. Rhode, known to many here simply as "chief," was in fire chief, received a commendation from the Navy at a ceremony Wednesday in which a special medal was pinned to his uniform by Rear Adm. Frederic R. Ruehe, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Japan and the fire chief's de facto boss.

Adm. Walter F. Doran, U.S. Pacific Fleet commander, selected Rhode for the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award, a prestigious honor.

Doran could not be at Wednesday afternoon's ceremony in the administration offices of the CNJF Regional Fire Department, Sasebo Division. But the event was attended by base commander Capt. Michael James, Sasebo's Chief Staff Officer Cmdr. Bernard Wang, firefighters from the department and other well-wishers.

"I had heard something vague about maybe being nominated for this but that was more than a year ago; I never really gave it another thought," Rhode said after Ruehe made it official with a hearty handshake.

"So I really feel good about this. It's the greatest honor for me to receive in all of my career as a civilian," he said.

Rhode, 55, admitted being slightly uneasy Wednesday. "I'm always happy when I'm seeing others receive recognition like this, especially when I've helped make the award possible. ... But I'm a little uncomfortable finally being the one standing here today," said the fire chief, who leaves Sasebo for a similar position at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in April.

"It's the greatest honor for me to receive in all my career as a civilian."

Richard S. Rhode

Sasebo Naval Base fire chief

A former U.S. Marine and soldier, Rhode, wife Cheryl and their three children have lived in Sasebo for more than five years.

In Doran's narrative explaining Rhode's selection for the award, he highlighted several accomplishments by Sasebo's CNJF Regional Fire Department on Rhode's watch, including:

■ Sasebo's completion of the Navy's pilot Weapons of Mass Destruction program conducted by the Soldier, Biological and Chemical Command.

■ Infrastructure improvements via a facility modernization program that included designing and building six new strategically located base fire stations.

■ CNJF Region's recognition as Navy Fire Department of the Year for 2003.

Rhode also was commended for some personal achievements on the job.

■ He implemented the International and Department of Defense Firefighter Certification Program.

■ He coordinated U.S. efforts to fight a massive fire in northern Japan that began following a powerful earthquake.

■ Mr. Rhode's actions reflected great credit upon himself and the U.S. Navy and have directly enhanced the relationship with the Japanese government," Doran stated in the commendation narrative.

Rhode had not prepared a speech to follow Ruehe's presentation of the medal but told the gathering, "It is the absolute truth that this event today would not be happening were it not for the performance of everyone in this room right now."

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Burst pipes, broken duct turn school into a sauna

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Third-grade teacher Eric Lee knew something was wrong when Cummings Elementary School, from the outside, looked like a Japanese bathroom.

Strolling up to the main entrance at 5:40 a.m. Tuesday, Lee, the first staff member to report to school, noticed through the foyer door some glass was "all fogged over, like an onsen."

Indeed, conditions inside were almost perfect for a warm bath. Lee found standing water about an inch deep "from the elevator to the library, halfway to the cafeteria, all the way down the hall. I opened the door to the teacher's work room and steam came pouring out. It was like a sauna. You could not see across the room, there was so much steam in there."

Cummings now is drying out after heating coils burst earlier this week and spewed hot water from the music room to the library, closing the school for a day. Base civil engineering officials said they believe copper pipes froze last weekend, then cracked open upon thawing. The first pipe leaked Monday morning in first-grade teacher Lisa Marie Hammon's classroom, starting with a drip and then a flood of hot water and steam from the ceiling tiles.

Soon after, another pipe broke and doused a corner of the library. Then three other first- and second-grade classrooms were hit. That wasn't all: Overnight Monday, a heating duct cracked in the teacher/parent work room, spraying water into the hall and the adjacent computer room and creating the swamp Lee found Tuesday morning. Other waterlogged rooms included the library lounge and music room.

"The whole ground floor of the school was affected," said assistant principal Claudia Holtzclaw.

Maj. Monica Hamer, operations flight commander, 35th Civil Engineer Squadron, said water-filled copper coils in eight ceiling heating units broke.

Officials have no damage estimate yet, but Hamer expects it won't be much.

"We're going to have to replace the broken coils, there's a little bit of water staining; but the carpet, once it dries out, appears fine," he said.

Holtzclaw said quick-acting staff members and parents willing to lend a hand kept damage to a minimum. Nobody was injured and no students got wet.

"A few books and papers were damaged, but virtually nothing else, because things got moved out and dried off at night," she said. Teachers and other staff members helped move furniture, retrieved buckets to place under leaks and helped students settle into new areas.

School was closed Tuesday and the computer room, a first-grade classroom and the teacher/parent work room remain off-limits. Fans and dehumidifiers run constantly to dry out drenched car-



Cummings Elementary School sixth-grader Robby Blount and teacher Brenda Fire examine a hole in the ceiling of a first-grade classroom where heating coils burst and sprayed hot water early Monday morning.

pets. Some ceilings with large holes where pipes burst will have to be patched. School officials salvaged the grand piano from a very wet music room, and all the computers appear to be working, said Brenda Fire, Cummings community relations liaison.

"I have to hand it to the military guys," Lee said. "We would not have been able to have school the next day if they weren't in here running interference and helping us get things cleaned up."

Hamer said the fire department and maintenance workers from civil engineer's Ninja Zone, with help from CE's heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration shop, all helped with the cleanup.

To prevent more heating coils from breaking, teachers have been advised not to turn on the supplemental heating systems, Hamer said.

"They still have heat," he said; they just can't further adjust the temperature in individual rooms. Jennifer H. Svan at: svanh@pstrips.osd.mil



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| Worship Service | 10:45 am | | |
| Children's Church (English, Japanese) | 10:45 am | | |
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| Children's Sunday School | | | |
| Youth Night Service | | | |
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| Pastors: Rev. Wes & Carol Malins | | | |

Rumsfeld stands firm on disputed number of capable Iraqi forces

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Iraq's recent elections won't stop the violence in that country, but they may prompt ordinary Iraqis to be forthcoming with information about the insurgents, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Thursday.

"I doubt one can say that the violence will change" the minds of individuals determined to oppose the new Iraqi government and the coalition, Rumsfeld told Pentagon reporters Thursday. "I expect that level of violence and the insurgency to continue."

However, "I think [the election's success] means intelligence will improve, more people will be willing to provide information" that leads to the capture or death of insurgents, he said.

Rumsfeld maintained that Iraq now has 136,000 security forces "trained and equipped at the appropriate level," even though the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers, told Congress on Thursday that only 40,000 of those troops are fully combat capable.

Rumsfeld said that he has validated the 136,000 figure, despite assertions by some members of Congress that the number of fully trained forces is considerably smaller.

He spent an hour this morning with the 1st Airborne Division commander Lt. Gen. David Patraeus, going over every one of these numbers, and with Gen. (George) Casey, the top U.S. military commander in Iraq, Rumsfeld said.

Patraeus has been tasked with overseeing U.S. military efforts to train and equip the Iraqi forces. Rumsfeld touted what he said was the dramatic growth in the Iraqi defense forces, "when we first started with zero" after the war in 2002.

In fact, the training program in Iraq is so robust that "we are heading toward 200,000 Iraqi Security Forces in October this year, when the constitution is voted on," Rumsfeld said.

But he would not quantify when Iraqi Security Forces will be large enough, or capable enough, for U.S. forces to begin coming home from Iraq.

"It depends on the conditions on the ground," he said. "There's no simple, neat answer to your question, because there are variables." As the numbers of Iraqi Security forces increase, obviously there will be less need for coalition forces.

Rumsfeld said he was not aware of comments made Thursday morning by Myers, who told a Senate Armed Services Committee that U.S. military leaders have said of among the 136,000 Iraqi forces, "about 40,000 can go anywhere in the country and take on any threat."

Not all of the Iraqi forces need to be "deployable," Rumsfeld said, citing a local policeman "walking the beat."

"A policeman is local," Rumsfeld said. "He doesn't need the mobility that a military unit might require."

There are "about 56,000 Iraqis in military forces, and another 56,000 in police forces," according to Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who appeared with Rumsfeld during the Thursday news conference.

Rumsfeld bristled at a reporter's suggestion that his insistence on adhering to the 136,000 tally is misleading as to the capability of those forces.

"A number does not give you capability, it gives you numbers.... Capability and capacity to do something are something else," Rumsfeld retorted. "It is flat wrong to say anything is misleading any one."

"No one should expect Iraqi security forces are going to come out of some training pipeline and instantly become battle-hardened veterans," Rumsfeld said.

Stripes reporter Leo Shane contributed to this story from Washington.

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Lt. gen. suspected for remark, but praised for leadership

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Marine Corps Commandant chastised but also defended one of his top commanders after video surfaced on NBC of the three-star general publicly saying "it's fun to shoot some people."

"Actually, it's a lot of fun to fight. You know, it's a hell of a fight. I like brawling," Lt. Gen. James Mattis told a gathering in San Diego during a panel discussion at the Convention Center there Wednesday.

Mattis, a veteran of operations in Afghanistan, more recently led thousands of Marines into combat in Iraq as the commander of 1st Marine Division.

He's currently the head of the Corps' Combat Development Command at Quantico, Va.

"You go into Afghanistan, you got guys who slap women around for five years because they didn't wear a veil," Mattis continued, according to the Web site of NBC's local affiliate in San Diego. "You know, guys like that don't get no manhood left anyway. So it's a hell of a lot of fun to shoot them."

Marine Commandant Gen. Mike Hagee responded Thursday, saying he wished Mattis had been more careful with his comments.

"I have counseled him concerning his remarks and he agrees he should have chosen his words

more carefully," reads Hagee's statement.

At the same time, however, Hagee defended his general.

"While I understand that some people may

take issue with the comments made by him, I also know he intended to reflect the unfortunate and harsh realities of war. Lt. Gen. Mattis often speaks with a great deal

of candor," wrote Hagee.

"Throughout our history Marines have given their lives in the defense of this nation and human rights around the globe," continued Hagee. "When necessary, this commitment helps to provide us the fortitude to take the lives of those who oppress others or threaten this nation's security. This is not something we relish, yet we accept it as a reality in our profession of arms."

Hagee gave no indication that Mattis would suffer any punishment.

"Lt. Gen. Mattis is a superb leader and one of the Corps' most courageous and experienced warriors. I remain confident that he will continue to serve this nation with dedication and distinction."

Mattis was attending a panel discussion on lessons learned from Afghanistan and Iraq sponsored by the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association, according to Capt. Jeff Landis, a Quantico spokesman.

In a news conference Thursday, Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said "all of us who are leaders have responsibility in our words all of the time." But he defended Mattis as a leader, saying he has shown great valor on the battlefield and great compassion to noncombatants.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld declined to respond to the comments, saying he had not read or heard them.

Few Marines have rushed to Mattis' defense.

"I think what he was really saying is 'I don't lose sleep over killing these guys. These are bad people,'" said retired Marine Col. Bob Work, who has served as an adviser to the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Commandant.

"Frankly, there are some people who deserve to die. The president has even said sometimes the only way to end a war, sometimes you've got to kill."

Stripes reporter Leo Shane III contributed to this report.

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Bush taps 3 Marine generals for promotion

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

Three Marine Corps brigadier generals assigned to various commands across the Pacific have been tapped for promotion by President Bush, according to a Defense Department news release.

The nominations of Timothy R. Larsen, Duane D. Thiessen and George J. Trautman III for appointment to major general were announced Tuesday by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Each is subject to Senate confirmation. Larsen, U.S. Forces Japan deputy commander, arrived at Yokota Air Base in September 2003. He had been commander of Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa.

His biography states he was commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Course in 1973 after graduating from Brigham Young University. He also holds a master's degree in international relations from Salve Regina University and master's in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College.

The Denver native's awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Air Force and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Thiessen, who became 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commander on Okinawa in June, was commissioned in May 1974 upon graduation from Pittsburgh (Kan.) State University.

His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with gold

star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star and Navy Commendation Medal.

The theater's third major general selection, Trautman, is deputy commander of all Marine forces in the Pacific and also heads the leadership hierarchy at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. He assumed the posts in August.

Trautman, who graduated from Penn State University in 1974 with a biology degree, later earned a master's in systems management from the University of Southern California, a master's in international relations from Salve Regina University and a master's in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College. After completing The Basic School, he entered flight training and was designated a naval aviator in April 1976.

According to his biography, he also served as a master's in the Armed Forces Staff College and has served as a Federal Executive Fellow at the Brookings Institution through the commandant's sponsorship.

Trautman's individual honors include the Defense Superior Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with gold star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Strike/Flight Air Medal, Navy Commendation Medal and Combat Action Ribbon.

E-mail Vince Little at: little@stripes.com

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At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

After death, a struggle for digital memories

Parents contend internet files belong to GIs' estate

By ARIANA EUNJUNG CHA
The Washington Post

Stationed in a remote corner of Iraq, Marine Corps reservist Karl Linn's only means of communicating with the outside world was through a computer. Several times a week, the 20-year-old combat engineer would log on and send out a batch of e-mails and update a Web site with pictures of his adventures.

For his parents in Midlothian, Va., the electronic updates were so precious that when he was killed Jan. 26 in an enemy ambush, one of the first things they did was to contact the company that hosted their son's account. They wanted to know how to access the data and preserve it.

But who owns the material is a source of intense debate.

Linn's father, Richard, said, he believes the information belongs to his son's estate, just like his old high school papers, his sweaters and his soccer ball, and should be transferred to the next of kin. The e-mail and Web hosting company, Mailbank.com Inc., said that while it empathizes with the fami-

ly's situation, its first priority is to protect the privacy of its customers. It refuses to divulge any information about the accounts.

As computers continue to permeate our lives, what happens to digital bits of information when their owners pass away has become one of the vexing questions of the Internet age. Much of that data are stored in accounts on remote servers and have no physical manifestation that can be neatly transferred. There are no clear laws of inheritance, meaning that Internet providers often decide for themselves what is right.

Many Internet firms have found themselves facing criticism no matter what they do. If they decline to release the information, they are labeled villains by people supporting the families. If they give it up, they are chastised for violating their own privacy statements.

"The difficulty is that there's no clear morality right or wrong," said Michael Prosser, a professor of Internet law at the University of Miami.

Official policy varies from company to company. Many of the larg-



FAMILY PHOTO/AF

Marine Lance Cpl. Karl Linn, of Virginia, poses with a Kalashnikov rifle at his base in Iraq's Anbar Province in this photo originally posted on his Web site. Linn was killed in a Jan. 26 ambush on a convoy in Iraq. Linn's parents are seeking access to his Web site to save his files.

er e-mail and Web site providers, such as America Online, MSN Hotmail, Google's Gmail and EarthLink, allow for the transfer of accounts upon death with proper documentation, but others do not. Yahoo, for instance, over the past few weeks has found itself under fire for refusing to allow a Michigan father, John Ellsworth, whose son died in Iraq in November, to access his son's e-mail.

Mary Osako, a spokeswoman for Yahoo Inc. in Sunnyvale, Calif., which manages about 40 million accounts, said that "our hearts go out to the Ellsworths and any family that suffers from a tremendous loss such as this." But, she added, "the commitment we've made to every person who signs up for a Yahoo Mail account is to treat their e-mail as a private communi-

cation and to treat the content of their messages as confidential."

E-mail accounts can hold an array of personal material, from banking and e-commerce records to notes passed among friends and family, providing a unique window into someone's life. Online journals, known as blogs, and personal Web sites also often offer intimate portraits of their authors, and not all of the material is necessarily viewable to the public.

For some family members of military officers killed in Iraq, retrieving these digital relics has become an important part of mourning their loved ones.

Take Karl Linn's Web page. Linn was always the tinkerer, and his site, www.karl.linn.net, reflected that.

In a text message on the main page, he apologized for the "improvised" look. "Below you will find what I want to share in the way of news from the front or whatever's on my mind."

Mostly, he used the page to post pictures. One showed the view down the Euphrates River from 10 stories up on the Haditha Dam where his unit was stationed.

"I think computer accounts are part of personal effects and I have power of attorney. It wasn't like he didn't trust me to take care of his affairs, and I know what I should or shouldn't be reading," his father Richard Linn said.

Staff researchers Julie Tate and Richard S. Dreezen contributed to this report.

Allawi behind in early returns; attacks kill 2 Marines, 28 others

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi officials Thursday released the first figures from weekend national elections, showing a commanding lead by candidates backed by the Shiite Muslim clergy. Rebels unleashed a wave of attacks, killing about 30 people, including two U.S. Marines and a dozen Iraqi army recruits.

Partial returns released by the election commission four days after the balloting showed the United Iraqi Alliance, backed by Iranian-born Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, leading with 1.1 million votes.

The ticket headed by interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a U.S.-backed secular Shiite, trailed second with more than 360,500 votes.

Only 1.6 million votes have been counted and certified from 10 percent of the country's 5,200 polling centers, the commission said, and the numbers were too small to indicate a nationwide trend.

Insurgents had eased up on attacks following the elections, when American and Iraqi forces imposed sweeping security measures. But starting Wednesday night, guerrillas launched a string of dramatic attacks.

In the deadliest incident, insurgents stopped a minibus south of Kirkuk, ordered army recruits off the vehicle and gunned down 12 of them, said Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammed Amin. Both Marines were killed in action Wednesday night.

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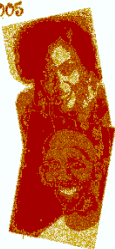
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Git to get posthumous Medal of Honor

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — A soldier credited with saving dozens of lives by beating back an Iraqi attack before he was killed will receive the first Medal of Honor of the Iraq war, according to the officer who nominated him.

Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, 33, of the Tampa Bay area, was killed in action when his outnumbered unit was attacked by Iraqi forces at the Baghdad airport on April 4, 2003.

Lt. Col. Thomas Smith on Tuesday notified the soldier's wife, Birgit, that President Bush would present the nation's highest military award to her and their children, Jessica, 18, and David, 10, at a White House ceremony, possibly in March.

“People know that to get a Medal of Honor, you have to be a special person or do something really great.”

No official announcement had been made by the Pentagon as of Wednesday.

“This is a guy whose whole life experience seemed building toward putting him in the position where he could do something like this,” said Thomas Smith, who is not related to the fallen soldier.

“He was demanding on his soldiers all the time and was a stickler for all the things we try to enforce. It's just an amaz-

ing story.”

Paul Smith, with Bravo Company of the 11th Engineer Battalion from Fort Stewart, Ga., was helping build a holding pen for a growing number of prisoners when he climbed aboard an armored personnel carrier and manned its .50-caliber machine gun to cover for fellow troops.

Smith fired more than 300 rounds and the ceramic breast plate in his flak jacket

was shattered as he took return fire from automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades.

He was the only American who died in the attack.

“People know what he's done,” Smith's wife said.

“People know that to get a Medal of Honor, you have to be a special person or do something really great.”

Since the Civil War, 3,439 men and one woman have received the Medal of Honor, awarded for bravery “above and beyond the call of duty.”

It was last presented to two soldiers killed in Somalia during action described in the book and movie “Black Hawk Down.”

Birgit Smith
soldier's wife

Report: Tapes show riot squads subduing Gitmo terror suspects

BY PAISLEY DODDS
The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Video tapes of riot squads subduing troublesome terror suspects at the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo Bay show the guards punching some detainees, tying one to a gurney for questioning and forcing a dozen to strip from the waist down, according to a secret report.

One squad was all-female, traumatizing some Muslim prisoners. Investigators from U.S. Southern Command in Miami, which oversees the camp in Cuba, wrote the report that was obtained by The Associated Press after spending a little more than a week in June reviewing 20 hours of videotapes involving “Immediate Reaction Forces.”

The camp's layout prevented videotaping in all the cells where the five-person teams operated, the report said. Reviewers said they did not look at all of the available videotapes.

Although the report cited several cases of physical force, reviewers said they found no evidence of systemic detainee abuse, according to the six-page summary dated June 19, 2004. An official familiar with the report authenticated its accuracy to AP on condition of anonymity.

The tapes raised questions about mistreatment and misconduct, however, said the investigators, who suggested some clips needed more scrutiny to rule out abuse. The military has cited 10 substantiated cases of abuse at Guantanamo, and announced

Tuesday an extension would be granted for an investigation to interview of witnesses in the United States and abroad.

One such clip the investigators flagged was from Feb. 17, 2004.

It showed “one or more” team members punching a detainee “on an area of his body that seemingly would be inconsistent with striking a pressure point,” which is a sanctioned tactic for subduing prisoners.

In five other clips showing detainees who appeared to have been punched by team members, the investigators said: “The punching was in line with accepted law enforcement practice of striking the pressure point on the back of the thigh to temporarily distract the detainee.”

Investigators also noted about a dozen cases in which detainees were stripped from the waist down and taken to the “Romeo block” of the camp. No female guards were involved, they said.

Romeo block is a camp section where prisoners were often left naked for days, according to two former detainees, Britons Shafiq Rasul and Asif Iqbal, who were released last year.

Although no female guards were videotaped in any of the stripping cases, investigators cautioned the U.S. government about using the all-female team to handle disruptive detainees, citing religious and cultural issues. Many of the prisoners are Muslim men and under strict interpretations of Islam view contact with other women other than their wives as taboo.

Investigators cautioned the U.S. government about using the all-female team to handle disruptive detainees, citing religious and cultural differences.



U.S. Army Sgt. Javal S. Davis and his attorney, Paul Bergin, arrive Thursday at the courthouse for Davis' sentencing hearing in Fort Hood, Texas. Davis pleaded guilty to battery and two other charges in connection with the prisoner abuse scandal at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

Witness in Abu Ghraib trial calls prison conditions dire

BY T.A. BADGER
The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — Abu Ghraib prison took a toll both on its thousands of inmates and the relatively few soldiers who guarded them, according to a witness who testified in the penalty phase for a military policeman who has pleaded guilty to abusing detainees.

Army Maj. David Dinenna, a leader of Sgt. Javal Davis' military police battalion, called conditions there “deplorable,” with shortages of food, water and clothing as well as frequent mortar attacks and prisoner flare-ups.

“It was filthy, with rodents, rats, wild dogs and trash and an overpopulation of prisoners,” Dinenna said Wednesday.

Davis, 27, a reservist from Roselle, N.J., pleaded guilty Tuesday to battery, dereliction of duty and lying to Army investigators as part of a deal with prosecutors.

The former guard faces a maximum 6½ years in prison for his crimes, but defense lawyer Paul Bergin has said that the plea deal caps Davis' sentence at 18 months.

Capt. Chuck Neill, a prosecution spokesman, said the jury's sentence recommendation will be compared to the deal offered to Davis, and the lesser sentence will be served.

Earlier in the hearing, prosecutors played a tape for the nine-man Army jury in which Davis responded to questions from the judge on Tuesday about what he did to seven handcuffed and hooded prisoners in November 2003.

In the tape, Davis admitted he stepped on the

7 British soldiers charged

LONDON — Seven British soldiers will stand trial on charges of murder for the killing of an Iraqi civilian in 2003, Britain's attorney general said Thursday.

Lord Goldsmith said the soldiers would face court-martial in connection with the death of Nadeem Abdullah on May 11, 2003, in Al Uzza in southern Iraq. He gave no details of the man's death, other than that it occurred at a roadside.

Meanwhile, prosecutors at a British base in Germany dropped the remaining charge against one of three soldiers standing trial on allegations of abusing Iraqi captives on Thursday, saying they couldn't prove he was the one who forced two detainees to strip and simulate sex acts.

From The Associated Press

hands and feet of detainees and that he later fell with his full weight on them.

Davis said he knew his actions were wrong and that the abuse was not carried out as part of an approved regimen prior to interrogation, as other accused Abu Ghraib guards have claimed.

He said he saw prisoners being physically mistreated and sexually humiliated, but that he failed to help them or report the abuse, as required under military law. He also admitted lying to an Army investigator when he denied his misdeeds.

Davis also spoke of dangers faced by guards at Abu Ghraib, including prisoners armed with homemade knives. He blamed job stress for his wrongful acts.

IN THE WORLD

Seoul pleased by Bush's remarks on North Korea

BY SOO-JEONG LEE

The Associated Press

SEOUL — South Korea on Thursday welcomed President Bush's softened tone toward North Korea, hoping it would help the communist North return to talks aimed at ending its nuclear weapons program.

Bush only briefly mentioned North Korea late Wednesday during his State of the Union address, broadcast early Thursday in Asia, saying Washington was "working closely with governments in Asia to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions."

That was a stark contrast to his speech three years ago, when he branded North Korea part of an "axis of evil" with Iran and Iraq.

The absence of hostile rhetoric raised hopes for a positive response from North Korea. Analysts here said the North was waiting to see what Bush would say about it in his State of the Union speech before deciding to rein in nuclear talks.

"We assess that President Bush's speech reflected Washington's will to resolve the North's nuclear issue through a peaceful and diplomatic way," South Ko-

For more coverage of the State of the Union address, see Pages 10-12

rea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"Now, it's time for North Korea to make a positive response and for us to resume the six-party talks soon and make concrete progress for the resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue," it said.

Analysts in South Korea predicted that the absence of harsh words would help restart the nuclear talks.

"The United States appears to have carefully prepared the speech so as not to give North Korea an excuse for not coming to the six-party talks," Kim Sung-han, a professor at Seoul's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, said in an interview with TV channel YTN.

Koh Yu-hwan of Seoul's Dongguk University said Bush seemed to be giving North Korea "one more chance." Bush also appeared conscious that he might have been criticized for hamper-

ing progress on denuclearization if he had stuck to his earlier rhetoric about the North.

Since 2003, the United States, the two Koreas, China, Japan and Russia have held three rounds of six-nation talks on the North's nuclear weapons programs. But no significant progress was reported.

A fourth round of talks scheduled for last September did not take place because North Korea refused to attend.

Possible exports of nuclear materials and technology by North Korea have long been a concern of the United States. The restrictive state is known to have sold materials to Iran and Syria in past years.

North Korea has cited a "hostile" U.S. policy as the key stumbling block to ending the nuclear standoff. It has demanded that Washington provide a nonaggression treaty and compensation in return for ending its nuclear programs.



South Korean nun Jiyul rests on Sunday, the 96th day of her hunger strike, at the Buddhist temple in Seoul. Jiyul is fasting to protest the construction of a tunnel through Mount Cheonseong, near Pusan; she says the project will harm endangered salamanders.

Nun enters 100th day of hunger strike in S. Korea

The Associated Press

SEOUL — A gaunt Buddhist nun entered the 100th day of a hunger strike Thursday, consuming only water and salt, for a cause many South Koreans find unfamiliar: saving salamanders.

Once dismissed as a mere protest, she gripped national attention this week as her dogged strike entered its 100th day and doctors warned she is so weak that her life hangs by a thread.

"Save Nun Jiyul!" chanted hundreds of people gathered in central Seoul Thursday.

The vigil, held simultaneously at 20 locations throughout the country, brought together thousands of activists, whose concerns now reached beyond protecting the endangered Korean amphibian to saving the nun.

A hundred days ago, Jiyul, who uses only one name like most Ko-

rean Buddhist nuns and monks, began fasting to demand that the government halt construction of a tunnel through Mount Cheonseong, near Pusan, South Korea's second-largest city, on the country's southeast coast.

The tunnel is part of a multibillion-dollar high-speed train line the government is building between Seoul and Pusan.

Because of the cost and route design, the government sees no alternative to building the tunnel.

For Jiyul, it's an ugly symbol of government callousness toward the environment. For her, the bureaucrats' emphasis on development over environment is something she should fight with her life.

The tunnel, now under construction, will harm 30 endangered species, including Korean clawed salamanders, according to the nun and other environmentalists.

Rice makes first trip to Europe

Secretary of state hopes to mend relations hurt by war

BY ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For her symbolic first trip abroad as the new face of U.S. foreign policy, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is paying special attention to European allies who stuck with the United States through war and its aftermath in Iraq.

Britain, the staunchest ally on Iraq, is the first stop. Rice is to meet with Prime Minister Tony Blair and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw on Friday. Later in the trip, Rice will call on Italy and Poland, both countries that sent significant numbers of troops to Iraq despite internal opposition to the war.

She also is offering an olive branch to France — a critic of the Iraq invasion whose people remain suspicious of President

Bush's intentions across the globe — by choosing Paris as the site of her first

major speech on U.S. goals in Europe and beyond.

Rice will speak Spain, which angered the United States by pulling its troops out of Iraq April, weeks after terrorists bombed Madrid commuter trains on March 11, killing 191 and wounding more than 1,500.

Iraq and the strained relations of the recent past hang over the weeklong trip to Europe and the Middle East, but Rice will focus

on brighter prospects for Bush's second term. Topping the list is the possibility of renewed peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians. Rice will visit Jerusalem and the West Bank between stops in eight European capitals and the Vatican.

Europeans are expected to watch Rice's tour closely for any sign of the Bush administration's next move in Iraq, as well as its plans for answering nuclear threats in Iran and North Korea. Rice herself will also be the object of curiosity.

Leaders in Europe will press Rice to send at least "subtle signals" to Iran that the United States backs the Europeans' effort to head off nuclear weapons development, said John Bruton, head of the European Commission delegation in Washington.



Rice

Vatican: Pope's condition improves

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II's condition is improving and he has not suffered any more breathing spasms, the Vatican said, but the 84-year-old pontiff may have to spend up to a week in the hospital to fully recover.

In a sign that the pope's health had stabilized, papal spokesman Joaquín Navarro-Valls said the Vatican would not issue another medical bulletin until Friday. The Holy See has said the pope

would spend a few more days at the Gemelli Poly-clinic hospital.

"He rested well all night, and the laboratory tests that were made give a satisfactory result," Navarro-Valls said.

He did not say exactly how long the pope would remain hospitalized, but he told reporters: "In my personal experience, when I've had the flu, it lasts seven days or a week — take your pick."

From The Associated Press

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USS Lincoln leaves tsunami disaster area

BY CHRIS BRUMMITT
The Associated Press

ABOARD USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN
— A U.S. aircraft carrier with 5,300 sailors and Marines headed out of Indonesian waters on Thursday, the single-biggest drawdown of the American military aid effort for the Dec. 26 tsunami victims.

The USS Abraham Lincoln "is moving out of Indonesian waters tonight," said Navy spokesman Cmdr. Mark McDonald. It is expected to arrive in Singapore Friday, he said.

About 1,000 servicemen and women stood at attention on the hot flight deck during a ceremony by U.S. and Indonesian officials to thank the personnel of the Abraham Lincoln, the figurehead of the U.S. military aid effort.

"In a very short while the U.S. military will have fulfilled its part in the overall relief support being provided by the U.S. government," said Lt. Gen. Robert Blackman, the commander of the U.S. military tsunami relief in Asia.

The event was attended by Indonesia's Welfare Minister Alwi Shihab, Indonesian military chief Endriatono Sutarto and U.S. Ambassador Lynn Pascoe, who arrived on a helicopter from Banda Aceh, the capital of the Aceh province that bore the brunt of the tsunami.

More than 158,000 people are confirmed to have died in the disaster, including 111,000 in Indonesia alone. The estimates of the missing range up to 142,000 region-wide.

The United States, which sent 15,000 service personnel after the tsunami, will

Sri Lanka: No more parkas, Viagra

The Wall Street Journal

GALLE, Sri Lanka — The grateful people of Sri Lanka would like to make a humble request to all those who have offered succor to its devastated tsunami victims: No more ski jackets, moisturizing gel or Viagra.

The recent outpouring of tsunami support, while helpful on the whole, has brought with it a mountain of unusable stuff from the Western world. That includes cozy winter hats, Arctic-weather tents, cologne and thong underwear. Dubbed "frustrated cargo" by aid workers — because it often has nowhere to go — these misfit items are gathering dust in warehouses and creating major headaches for relief workers in the field.

Mounds of donated clothes litter the coastal highway south of Colombo. Bottled water from European mountain streams is flowing freely, raising concern about litter in the jungle. Medicines that are no longer needed, such as morphine, are feared to be loose in the country.

Some are putting items of no apparent local value to creative use. Impact Aid, a group in Sri Lanka, cites two dozen goose-down jackets it recently received from a European relief agency. After some snickering, the group forwarded the coats to a refugee camp.

There they were used to wrap babies who were without diapers.

have about 5,000 troops left in the country after the departure of the USS Abraham Lincoln. The other U.S. forces were pulled out in phases last month.

Several other countries including Australia, Japan, France, Germany, Singapore and Malaysia also sent troops and aircraft.

"I am pleased that the government of Indonesia no longer needs the full complement of forces that were originally deployed," said Shihab.

The remaining U.S. troops, will continue helping with the reconstruction effort through February, a U.S. diplomat in Jakarta, speaking on condition of anonymity, said.

The helicopters and the craft will be based on the USS Essex, an amphibious assault ship from Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, said the diplomat. The hospital ship USNS Mercy will also remain in the area.

Meanwhile, the top World Health Organization health crisis official said efforts to combat disease outbreaks in Sumatra had exceeded his expectations, after the U.N. body had warned of possible mosquito- and waterborne epidemics in the region, which is in the grip of the rainy season.

Although some cases had been reported, "we have managed to prevent any major disease outbreak from affecting the tsunami-affected populations," official David Nabarro told reporters.



Sailors gather prior to a farewell ceremony on board the USS Abraham Lincoln off Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on Thursday. The Lincoln's departure marks a major drawdown in U.S. tsunami aid effort.

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Bush pushes out Social Security plan

Pushes private accounts for young workers

By LAURA MECKLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration unveiled a host of details about its proposal to add personal accounts to Social Security, but key questions remain unanswered, including how much guaranteed benefits will be cut and how the plan will be paid for.

Under the proposal outlined by President Bush and his aides Wednesday, Social Security benefits would not change for retirees or wage-earners age 55 or older.

But the future government guarantee would be reduced for younger workers whether or not they set up personal accounts, but more for those who choose to divert some of their payroll tax to a personal account.

Eventually, Bush envisions permitting younger workers to invest two-thirds of their payroll taxes in the new private accounts. They would be required to purchase an investment that, when combined with a monthly Social Security check, would keep their income above the federal poverty level during retirement.

Bush's aides outlined selected details as he sketched his proposals in broad terms in his State of the Union address.

They omitted other material, declining to say, for example, how large a reduction in guaranteed benefits would fall on younger workers. Some estimates put it at more than 40 percent, although Republican aides stressed that any drop should be offset, at least partially, by income from personal investments.

Nor did the administration say how it would cover the so-called transition costs to a remodeled Social Security program, which it pegged at \$750 billion over a decade.

Aides said Bush was not submitting legislation to Congress, responding to requests from State GOP leaders that he give them leeway to fashion a measure that can pass.



President Bush makes his way out of the House Chamber on Wednesday after delivering his annual State of the Union address before a joint session of Congress, at the Capitol in Washington. He is escorted at left by Senate Majority Leader Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

Democrats, in the minority in both the House and Senate, said they'd oppose Bush's proposals.

"Democrats are all for giving Americans more of a say and more choices when it comes to their retirement savings. But that doesn't mean taking Social Security's guarantee and gambling with it," said Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. Senate Democrats were sending Bush a letter Thursday urging him to limit borrowing in crafting Social Security legislation, saying it would be immoral to pass this debt onto future generations.

Administration officials acknowledged that the private accounts do not solve Social Security's long-term financial woes. Without any changes, the program, established in 1935, is estimated to begin paying out more than it collects as early as 2018. In 2042, according to the program's official estimate, its trust funds will be depleted and benefits will be paid entirely from current tax

receipts. At that point, checks are predicted to be only 73 percent of the amount now promised.

Under the Bush plan, individuals born in 1949 or earlier would stay in the current system without changes. For younger workers, the option of new personal accounts would be phased in over three years. Those born in 1965 or earlier could begin participating in 2009. Those born in 1978 and earlier could begin the next year. In the third year, all eligible workers could open personal accounts.

Once workers opt for personal accounts, they could not move back into the traditional system, though they could put their money in low-risk government bonds.

The Bush plan would allow workers to divert about two-thirds of their payroll taxes into these accounts. The remaining payroll taxes would continue to go into the Social Security trust funds, as would the entire 6.2 percent payroll tax paid by employers.

To hold down the lost income to

the Social Security trust funds, individual contributions would initially be capped at \$1,000 per year. That figure would rise by \$100 a year until all workers could invest the full 4 percent.

Those who choose to participate would have a limited set of investment choices, similar to those available in the Thrift Savings Plan, a retirement system for federal workers.

The government would be responsible for keeping track of how much money is in each worker's account, a proposal aimed at keeping administrative fees low. The administration estimates annual administrative fees would total 0.3 percent of each account balance.

As their work years end, all workers with personal accounts too small to assure retirement income above the federal poverty level when combined with their monthly government check, would be required to purchase an investment annuity to guarantee such a level. However, any money put into an annuity could not be passed on to heirs.

Bush shares vision, but will people invest in it?

By RON FOURNIER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush is drawing a long gray line through the baby boom generation, hoping to keep the oldest at bay and the youngest at his side as he pursues drastic changes to Social Security.

Bush said in his State of the Union address, "I have a message for

Families of

every American who is 55 years or older: Do not let anyone mislead you. The Social Security system will not change."

But it *will* change dramatically for people under 55, if the president has his way. Benefit cuts, including the retirement age and the averaging the early collection of retirement checks are all on the table.

While the Congress to create private investment accounts for Social Security taxes, he told the under-55 set, "Your money will grow over time, at a greater rate than any other the current system can deliver."

Bush can't guarantee market-based private accounts will always yield better rates than the current program, but that might not matter to young and middle-aged Americans who have long assumed Social Security would sputter before they grew old.

People under 55 are generally more savvy about investments than their parents and grandparents who were raised during the Depression and consider Social Security a birthright. A recent Democratic poll found that nearly two-thirds of people under 50 believe that Social Security will pay lower or no benefits when they retire.

People over 50 have much more confidence in the system. Independent pollsters with the Pew Research Center found that 58 percent of people 18-54 support private investment accounts. Among those 55 and older, only 45 percent do.

Bush sought to keep the younger and middle-aged on his side by appealing to their parental and material instincts. "You'll be able to pass along the money that accumulates in your personal account, if you wish, to your children and grandchildren," he said.

There are troubling signs for Bush. A recent GOP poll found that sentiment swings against personal accounts when near-retirees are exposed to a series of common arguments for and against Bush's plan.

Young voters and near-retirees may be less receptive when they hear the details of Bush's plan: a big reduction in benefits for young workers when they retire, larger still if they choose to establish a personal account.

Speech full of numbers, but not the negative ones

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush left some of the balance out of the balance sheet when he talked about retirement savings in his State of the Union speech.

The president told younger workers they can expect higher retirement returns if they divert some of their payroll taxes into private accounts under his proposal. He didn't tell them they can expect a lower Social Security check too.

A variety of telling details went unspoken in the policy-thick address, on jobs, Iraq, terrorism and more.

In a portion of his speech dealing with economic progress in the past four years, Bush trumpeted the addition of 2.3 million jobs "in the last year alone," as though he's delivered a succession of job gains.

His number was correct for the year in question, but he left out that there was an overall job loss in those four years. He remains about 300,000 jobs short of closing that jobs deficit.

Bush called Iraq "free and sovereign," an arguably premature definition in light of the continuing violence from insurgents and the overwhelming presence of U.S. troops.

Analysis

The president touted global support for the Iraq war, saying 28 countries have troops on the ground. However, most troops come from the U.S. and Britain, 90 percent of coalition troop deaths have been American, and several nations have indicated they want to pull out because of costs, casualties and Sunday's vote.

Bush explained in detail how, under his proposal, younger workers would be able to divert some of their Social Security payroll

taxes into private accounts "so you can build a nest egg for your own future."

Nowhere did he give the other side of the equation — that Social Security benefits for those workers would be reduced as a result.

He stated "your account will provide money for retirement over and above the check you will receive from Social Security," without explaining that that check would be smaller.

Declaring Social Security will go broke if nothing is done, Bush said that by 2042, "the entire system would be exhausted and bankrupt." The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office forecasts Social Security as it is would be able to pay 73 percent of benefits in 2042 and stay solvent for 10 years beyond that.

"The speech does what one would expect it to do: focuses on advantages of the plan, not on the risks," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center.

Emotions run high for some at address

Marine's parents, Iraqi woman share pain

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — They met just before the speech began the mother of a Marine killed in Iraq and the daughter of a man killed by Saddam Hussein's regime. They found some comfort in a spontaneous moment that electrified President Bush's State of the Union address.

The two women, both touched by death in Iraq, reached out for each other while lawmakers, military leaders, the president and the nation watched. Their locked embrace inspired the longest applause of the evening.

On Thursday, the parents of Marine Corps Sgt. Byron Norwood said the Iraqi woman, Safa Taleb al-Suhail, leader of the Iraqi Women's Political Council, and first lady Laura Bush. The Norwoods' son, Marine Sgt. Byron Norwood, was killed in Fallujah on Nov. 13.

"Good Morning America" with her husband, Bill.

Al-Suhail's father was killed 11 years ago by the Iraqi intelligence service. Now the leader of the Iraqi Women's Political Council, she watched the annual presidential address Wednesday night at the Capitol as a guest of first lady Laura Bush.

Behind her sat Janet Norwood, who sent her son into battle wishing she could "protect him like I had since he was born." Her son was proud to fight, loved his job and wanted to protect the nation, the mother wrote in a letter to the president.

"We have said farewell to some very good men and women who died for our freedom and whose memory this nation will honor forever," Bush said.

Pain etched lines in Norwood's forehead as she held a woman who won the freedom to vote in Iraq's election on Sunday. Norwood finally let go, took her husband's arm and rested her head on his shoulder.

The Iraqi woman had been applauded earlier when she stood and waved a purple-and-white finger and V-for-victory sign after being introduced by the president as a symbol for millions

of Iraqis who voted in a free election for the first time last Sunday.

Lawmakers honored those elections with a show of purple, the color that marked the index fingers of Iraqis who voted.

A wave of purple fingers went up at each mention of the Iraqi vote, a gesture organized by Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-La., to demonstrate solidarity with Iraqi voters.

In a letter to fellow lawmakers, Jindal said he wanted to display support for "people throughout the world who seek freedom."

Some women traded traditional red and blue garb for suits that spanned a spectrum of purple, from lavender to violet. A few men sported purple ties.

"In any nation, casting your vote is an act of civic responsibility," Bush said of the election. "For millions of Iraqis, it was also an act of personal courage, and they have earned the respect of us all."

Democrats also praised the election, but pushed the Bush administration to improve security and transfer governing authority to the Iraqis.

We have never heard a clear plan from this administration for ending our presence in Iraq, said House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California.



Janet and William Norwood, of Pflugerville, Texas, hug Wednesday after being mentioned by President Bush during his State of the Union address. Applauding, from left, Marine Staff Sgt. John Manuel Martinez; Safa Taleb al-Suhail, leader of the Iraqi Women's Political Council; and first lady Laura Bush. The Norwoods' son, Marine Sgt. Byron Norwood, was killed in Fallujah on Nov. 13.

Bush speech stirs hope, skepticism across nation

The Associated Press

Following his State of the Union address, President Bush was to sell his agenda during a two-day swing through Nebraska, North Dakota, Montana, Arkansas and Florida. Here is a sampling of reaction to those states.

NEBRASKA: When President Bush comes to Omaha on Friday, Sheldon Skogvaard plans to attend his rally and cheer. Dan Seaman plans to be on the street outside protesting.

The political opposites come together along with 10 other Creighton University students Wednesday night to watch Bush's State of the Union address.

Skogvaard, vice president of the College Republicans, said he was most interested in Social Security reform. "I don't know a single person my age who has confidence in the Social Security system the way it is today."

He said he liked Bush's proposed private investment accounts and the comparison of them to the Thrift Savings plan. Skogvaard, a 20-year-old philosophy major, is in his third year in the Army Reserves.

"As a soldier I pay into that Thrift plan, and I can mix stocks and bonds, and I can get up to 6 or 8 percent return," Skogvaard said. "That's going to be a big selling point to a lot of people."

Seaman, a 21-year-old Democrat from Rapid City, S.D., voted for John Kerry and said he had low expectations for Bush's

speech. "I heard what I expected," Seaman said. "I'm not sold on his domestic agenda."

The philosophy major said he didn't form an opinion on Social Security reform. He said he thinks more research should be done on projections regarding Social Security's demise.

"This stuff makes me weary," he said.

ARKANSAS: Bradford Scruggs, 32, who voted for Bush, sipped a draft beer at a Mexican restaurant in Little Rock as he waited for his take-out food and watched the speech on a TV above the bar.

"I'm not a fan of Bush, but I voted for him," said Scruggs, who said he turned conservative after spending his college years as a staunch liberal.

The owner of a small business said he's worried about baby boomers draining Social Security and liked what Bush had to say about privatizing the system.

"It's a 20th century idea and it can't go into the next century," Scruggs said. "We have to change it. It has to be partially privatized because regardless of who is in power it's going to run out of money."

FLORIDA: At a suburban Miami retirement home, much of the focus of the president's speech was on two words: Social Security.

For retired accountant Amelia Martin, the system demands reforms. But to Harry Hill, a retired federal government worker, Bush's proposed reforms spell trouble.

Martin, 84, said she worried that "a lot of people who are not responsible" would have trouble with the voluntary personal accounts for younger workers.

"Now, how it's going to be handled, that is something that has to be worked out," Martin said.

Hill, on the other hand, wasn't convinced. "This Social Security thing is a total disaster," he said. "Anyone who signs up for it is a fool."

Florida has more than 3.3 million Social Security beneficiaries and five of the state's congressional delegation represent the nation's highest concentration of recipients.

NORTH DAKOTA: Free pizza and soda helped attract about 75 students to a North Dakota State University TV room for the speech.

Melissa Mallett, 20, president of the College Republicans, listened and hoped to snag one of 25 tickets that were being raffled off for Bush's appearance scheduled on campus Thursday.

"If something isn't done about Social Security, we're going to be stuck with nothing," said Mallett. "My parents will be turning to me for money, kind of like what I do to them now."

The president of the College Democrats, Robert Blaufuss, watched the speech with friends at a dorm room. Though he was impressed with Bush's speaking skills, there was little in the address that impressed him.

"There weren't a lot of issues that I got worked up about, but I think his plan on Social Security is a bad idea," Blaufuss said.

MONTANA: Paul Whiting, 67, took notes during the speech from his home in Billings.

He couldn't hide his reaction. "I really don't trust him," the semi-retired photographer said about Bush. He has voted for Democrats and lately some independents. He did not vote for Bush.

One of his biggest worries is for-

ign policy. Whiting is a peace advocate, who participated in local vigils leading up to the war in Iraq and said he'd like to see the United States adjust its foreign policy.

"I think we're working on a posture of fear and isolationism," he said. "I think we really have to examine why our policies generate so much hostility around the world."

Associated Press writers Dave Kolpack in Fargo, N.D.; Eric Olson in Omaha, Neb.; Caryn Rousseau in Little Rock; and Ken Thomas in Miami contributed to this report.

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ROBERT FRY

Chicago Hispanics offended by new American Girl doll

Backstory tells of Latina character leaving 'dangerous' neighborhood

BY MELANIE COFFEY

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Some residents of Chicago's largely Hispanic Pilsen section are upset over a new doll in the popular American Girl series because her storyline says the Mexican-American youngster and her family left the "dangerous" neighborhood for a better life in the suburbs.

Many in the West Side neighborhood say the characterization is insulting and inaccurate.

"It's very offensive and it's really a slap in the face to the hardworking people of the Pilsen community," said Alvaro R. Obregon, who lives near where the doll, Marisol, supposedly lived before setting out for suburban Des Plaines.

According to the biography that accompanies the doll, which was introduced just after Christmas, she is the daughter of a transit worker and an accountant. One day her mother tells Marisol the family is leaving their apartment for a house in the suburbs.

The old neighborhood "was no place for me to grow up," the doll's story says. "It was dangerous, and there was no place for me to play."

*"It's very
offensive and
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slap in the face
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hardworking
people of
the Pilsen
community."*

Alvaro R. Obregon
Community activist

American Girl officials said that they never intended to insult the community.

"Our feeling is that when people read the book in its entirety, I think they'll see the picture that we painted of Marisol in the book is from a very warm, lively and very close-knit community," American Girl spokeswoman Stephanie Spanos said Wednesday.

Spanos added that the "dangerous" comment was a reference to traffic in the big city and that Marisol's parents moved to Des Plaines because they wanted a house and a yard for their daughter to play in.

Police spokesman Pat Camden said Pilsen's crime level is pretty typical for Chicago.

"Crime there is not the highest and it's not the lowest," he said.

Although crime was down 6 percent last year in Pilsen, the neighborhood still grapples with gang violence and high dropout rates.

"It's a community that doesn't give up and doesn't run from its problems," said Obregon, who works with the community group called The Resurrection Project. "It's a community of faith, of hardworking people, and that's why when



AMERICAN GIRL, NO/AP

Marisol Luna is the newest character in the popular American Girl doll line. The book that accompanies the Mexican-American girl has drawn criticism from Chicago's Hispanic community because in her story line Marisol and her family leave a "dangerous" West Side community for a better life in the suburbs.

This comes out I'm sort of taken aback."

Pilsen has long been a port of entry for immigrants in Chicago.

From the early 1900s until about 30 years ago, mostly Eastern Europeans lived in the area. Now it is one of the biggest Mexican communities in the United States. In the summer it is known for its outdoor Catholic Mass and festivals that fill the streets with the smell of tamales and the sound of mariachi bands.

American Girl dolls were introduced in 1986. The dolls, which have become a must-have for many girls, also feature other eth-

nic characters, including a Hispanic girl living in colonial New Mexico, a black girl during the Civil War and an American Indian girl.

Alejandra L. Ibanez, executive director of the community group Pilsen Alliance, said American Girl missed an opportunity.

"I wish that they would not have had Marisol leave her community so that little girls like Marisol living in the inner city can be proud of their neighborhood and not have the perception that they must leave the neighborhood so that they can do better for themselves," Ibanez said.

Martha Stewart, 'You're hired'

BY DERRICK J. LANG

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Martha Stewart, you're hired.

The masterminds behind "The Apprentice" — Donald Trump and Mark Burnett — and NBC announced Wednesday that Stewart will host "The Apprentice: Martha Stewart."

"Mark and I have always admired her," Trump said. "She's a very brave woman. She's built a multimillion-dollar empire. It was an easy decision. We think this will be an absolutely tremendous success."

Burnett didn't reveal many details about the new version of the business-themed reality show, such as whether there will be a boardroom or when the show would begin taping.

But Stewart's take on "Apprentice" should be distinct, Burnett said. "Martha has her own empire, which has a different look and feel to it."

Her show will film in either New York or Connecticut, where the Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. empire is located. Sixteen to 18 contestants will vie for a one-year job with her company in 2001, just before the price-plunged \$250,000 salary.

Casting already has begun. Producers currently seeking applicants for the fourth edition of Trump's "Apprentice" also will search for Martha wannabes. And a graphic with Stewart's face touted "Apply now to be Martha Stewart's Apprentice" already has sprung up on NBC's Web site.

Since Stewart is not allowed to conduct business while in prison, Burnett made it clear his deal with Stewart was completed before the domestic mogul entered prison — although he's made monthly visits to her.

She was convicted last year of lying about why she unloaded shares of InClone Systems Inc. stock in 2001, just before the price plunged. Stewart began serving her five-month sentence in October and is scheduled for release in early March from a prison in Alderson, W.Va.

Wednesday's announcement means Stewart will have two shows. On Dec. 8 it was announced that she will revive her daily homemaking show next September, this time with a live audience and celebrity guests.

Filming on her "Apprentice" could begin as early as March, when Stewart goes from prison to house arrest. Under her probation she will be allowed to work outside of her home, which Burnett said may include shooting the show.



Stewart

Bill would allow DVDs to be child-proofed

Lawmakers back plan to shield kids from sex, violence, profanity in movies

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Legislation that would enable parents to skip movie scenes deemed offensive on DVDs is moving quickly in Congress. It also would create stiffer penalties for people who bring videocameras into theaters to make pirated copies.

"Parents have a right to decide what their children see on television and no one should deny them that right," said Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, who introduced the bill in the House.

"Fortunately, technology exists that shields children from violence, sex, and profanity. It is the electronic equivalent of fast-forwarding over unwanted content."

The legislation was introduced because Hollywood studios and directors had sued to stop

the makers and distributors of the technology. The movies' creators had argued that changing the content would violate their copyrights.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said the bill would create an exemption in the copyright laws to make sure companies like ClearPlay, a Salt Lake City business, won't get sued out of existence.

The bill "will help to end aggressive litigation threatening the viability of small companies like ClearPlay which are busy creating innovative technologies for consumers that allow them to tailor their home viewing experience to their own individual or family preferences," Hatch said last week.

The House Judiciary Committee is expected to take up the legislation soon. The Senate passed a similar bill by voice vote Tuesday.

In addition, the legislation introduced in the House and passed by the Senate would create

new penalties for criminals who use small videocameras to record and sell bootlegged copies of first-run films.

The legislation would stop "the most egregious form of copyright piracy plaguing the entertainment industry today: the piracy of film, movies, and other copyrighted materials before copyright owners have had the opportunity to market fully their products," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

If the bill becomes law, people convicted of using cameras to bootleg movies could face as much as three years in federal prison plus fines, with the sentence doubling to six years upon a second conviction.

"The growing piracy of movies, music and software is hurting the ability of artists to be compensated for their hard work," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. The bill "will ensure that those who steal the creative works of others will be held accountable."

Hooking up with a unique band of Marines

New member of President's Own gets a lesson in Corps values

BY MICHAEL E. RUANE

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — He has been to Mr. Sneed's, across from the barracks, to get a regulation haircut.

He has been to Mr. Yi, next door, to get fitted for his crimson-and-blue uniforms.

He has learned how to salute: Right hand only. Elbow out. Fingertips to the back of the hat bill, with no palm or thumb showing.

By the way, Marine, it's a cover, not a hat.

And he has been warned against chewing gum in uniform.

Now it is showtime.

This Sunday, recruit Joseph DeLuccio, 27, a carpenter's son from Vernon, N.J., makes his debut with the Marine Corps — not with a rifle, but with a black, short-barrel, smooth-bore instrument that he will carry throughout his career in uniform.

The oboe.

DeLuccio, who has been in his khaki and olive green service uniform for about a week, is the newest member of the Marine Band, known as the President's Own, which has benefited every chief executive from John Adams to George W. Bush.

Bypassing boot camp

His trip into a Marine uniform bypassed one essential stop made by virtually all other Marines: the 13-week ordeal commonly known as boot camp. Making the Marine Band does not require crawling through the mud, being yelled at by a drill instructor or learning hand-to-hand combat. Band members don't learn to fire a weapon because they never expect to use one.

The Marine Band's roughly 130 members are the only musicians in any military service, to be spared such training, according to Capt. John Barclay, executive assistant to the band's director, because they will never be called to combat.

The thinking is that the musicians are a highly trained elite group, the best Marines have of their kind, and music should be their focus.

"The average Marine ... will spend 13 weeks becoming a Marine," Barclay said. "The members of the band spend their whole life preparing ... to come here."

The band, established by Congress in 1798 and made famous in the late 1800s by composer and conductor John Philip Sousa, is the oldest professional music organization in the country. It is made up of some of the finest musicians in the world.

Once musicians join the band,



LUCIAN PERKINS, THE WASHINGTON POST/LATW

Oboist Joseph DeLuccio, the most recent addition to the U.S. Marine Band, tries on his uniforms at the Marine Annex in Washington, D.C., as he is instructed in how to assemble and wear them.

they tend to stay. Master Gunner Sgt. James Dickey, the retiring musician DeLuccio is replacing, had been with the band almost 28 years.

Barclay said that, though their role in the Corps differs radically from that of the average leatherneck, band members quickly earn, and return, the respect of fellow Marines.

But the transition from the music conservatory to the Marines, to say nothing of the inner sanctums of the White House, can be abrupt, and the lifestyle change drastic.

"It's a very, very interesting process," Barclay said last week. "They come here and all of sudden they're wearing the uniform of the U.S. Marine Corps."

So while DeLuccio loves Bach and Mozart, and has been steeped in his profession for over a decade, he had to learn that his MOS (military occupational specialty) is 9811, for Marine Band musician, that he shouldn't go outside in uniform without his cover, and that if the concert begins at 1700, that means it's at 5 p.m.

A Marine mentor

To ease things, DeLuccio, who is quiet, well-spoken and passionate about his craft, was handed over to Gunnery Sgt. William Kanter, 29, the band's assistant drum major.

Kanter, of Manchester, N.H., is a kind of one-man recruit depot.

He is also a musician — a saxophonist — but he was a member

of one of the Marine division bands, underwent recruit training and deployed to Iraq with the division in 2003.

All new members of the Marine Band are turned over to him for indoctrination. "They really belong to him," Barclay said, "until he says that they're ready to go."

DeLuccio's audition last May 10 came after he spotted an advertisement in a well-known music newspaper. The job opening was for someone to play oboe and the similar, but larger, English horn.

DeLuccio had a bachelor's degree in music from Baldwin-Wallace College, near Cleveland; a master's degree in music from DePaul University in Chicago; and was at work on a doctorate in musical arts at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

But a pile of diplomas is no guarantee of work as a musician, a profession in which good, steady jobs are hard to come by.

The Marine Band is renowned and the job pays about \$1,850 a month — the standard rate for a staff sergeant — with a \$1,300 monthly housing allowance, adjusted to match the cost of living in Washington.

He submitted a résumé and was invited to a tryout.

The auditions are always tense. "You essentially get five to 10 minutes to prove yourself," he said. "If you're not feeling good that day, well, too bad. You just have to bring your game and do the best that you can. ... It's a very, very stressful thing to do."

Making the band

DeLuccio's audition at the Marine Barracks was a pressure-packed affair in which he competed against 44 other candidates.

"The standards are high," said Dickey, the retiring oboist, "and the scrutiny is everywhere."

DeLuccio was summoned to play for a five-person selection committee. He was issued a number, 33, and stood behind a screen so the members could not see him.

The committee wants to be influenced only by the candidate's music.

DeLuccio was asked to play a short but difficult portion of Mozart's "Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra in C Major," a piece from Maurice Ravel's "Le Tombeau de Couperin," a part from Beethoven's Third Symphony, and a selection from Anton Dvorak's Seventh Symphony.

He was the last of six finalists called back to play again after lunch. This time the screen was gone, there were 10 people on the selection committee, and the pressure was even higher.

DeLuccio played for about a half-hour, and at one point performed with one of the band's oboists. Afterward, DeLuccio waited with the others for the verdict in a warm-up room.

Finally, a band official entered and announced: "At this time, we'd like to offer the position to Joseph DeLuccio. Congratulations."

"Wow," DeLuccio thought. "All

this hard work has finally paid off."

Learning the ropes

On Jan. 4, he reported to the new Marine Annex, the band's headquarters.

There was no time to waste. This is the band's busy season. Dickey's retirement ceremony was last Friday. DeLuccio's first band rehearsal was four days later. His first concert, Sunday, is at the University of Maryland.

He got his service uniforms Jan. 24. He needed help learning how to properly iron the vertical creases in the front of his khaki shirt.

Monday morning, DeLuccio called at Yi's to get his three newly tailored band jackets. He then reported to the band's locker room, where Kanter showed him, in rapid-fire fashion, how to assemble the uniforms and wear them.

The white belt had to rest above the two gold buttons at the back of the jacket. The gold Marine Corps collar pins had to align with the collar's white piping. And the loop at the end of the braided white shoulder cord hooked over a button at the top of the jacket.

Tuesday, DeLuccio rehearsed with the band for the first time. This transition looked easier.

On tap for the rehearsal was music by Sergei Prokofiev, Ottorino Respighi, Charles Ives and Samuel Barber.

"It was fun," DeLuccio said afterward. "It was nice to finally get to be doing what I came here to do."

FACES

Paris Hilton to host 'SNL'

Paris Hilton will be the host of this week's "Saturday Night Live."



Hilton

It will be her first time as host, NBC said Tuesday. She previously appeared on "SNL" in a tongue-in-cheek interview with Jimmy Fallon on the show's "Weekend Update" segment.

Hilton is the star of "The Simple Life" with friend Nicole Richie. The Fox TV reality series, now in its third season, features the duo working in a series of menial jobs.

She also has published a memoir, "Confessions of an Heiress: A Tongue-in-Cheek Behind the Pose."

British band Keane will perform as the show's musical guest.

Orchestra has new chief conductor

Jiri Belohlavek will become chief conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra and David Robertson will be principal guest conductor, the orchestra announced Tuesday.

Belohlavek, 58, will be chief conductor designate until the summer of 2006, when he assumes the chief conductor post on the first night of the annual Proms concerts. He succeeds Leonard Slatkin, who was chief conductor from 2000 until last summer.

Belohlavek was chief conductor of the Prague Symphony (1977-89), music director of the Czech Philharmonic (1990-1992) and principal guest conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra (1995-2000). He made his Metropolitan Opera debut last month in Janacek's "Kat'a Kabanova" and is to make his Berlin Philharmonic debut next year.

Robertson becomes principal guest conductor in October, two months after Jukka-Pekka Saraste's term ends.

Simmons to promote animal hot line

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has recruited hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons to promote a new toll-free hot line for New Yorkers to report abuse of animals.



Simmons

Launched on Tuesday, the campaign will use public service announcements and print ads featuring Simmons to encourage people to make anonymous tips to the hot line — 1-877-THE-ASPCA.

"There is nothing cool about being cruel to animals," Simmons said in a statement. "They have no choice or voice."

In 2004, the ASPCA investigated about 4,500 reports of animal cruelty citywide, resulting in 54 arrests.

Pros return in ESPN's 'Dream' show

NBA pros of years past will trade their jerseys for ear pieces, microphones and a layer of TV makeup when the third season of ESPN's "Dream Job" returns.

There will be a special preview episode Feb. 20, and starting the following day, Dana Barros, Dee Brown, Matt Bullard, Darryl Dawkins, J.R. Reid and Gerald Wilkins will compete for a one-year NBA studio analyst contract with ESPN. The finale for the five-week series is March 27.

"These guys are ready to start a new chapter in their post-NBA careers," said Mark Shapiro, ESPN executive vice president, programming and production. "While their expertise on the court is without question, making the jump to the game analyst role will be a challenge that requires an entirely different skill set."

Hosted by Stuart Scott, each hour-long episode will show the contestants competing in a variety of challenges meant to test their on-air worthiness. Whether they are breaking down plays, mastering the telestrator or analyzing game footage, they'll see if they have what it takes to relate to viewers.

Guest NBA athletes and personalities will make appearances during the series to participate in mock segments and scenarios for the contestants.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Alley has fun with weighty issue

By ROB OWEN
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

LOS ANGELES It takes a certain kind of actress to have the security to put it all out there, especially when the "it" is her weight.

Kirstie Alley ("Cheers," "Veronica's Closet") has a background in comedy, which probably helps, but the level of self-deprecating humor she displays playing essentially herself in Showtime's "Fat Actress" (10 p.m. EST March 7) is startling nonetheless.

"When I was doing 'Cheers,' I was hauled in several times for being too fat," Alley said at a press conference this week. "If you'll look back on 'Cheers,' I don't think I ever got over 135 pounds and I'm 5-foot-8 ... When we wrote this show, I said ... This is the most humiliating moment of my life. They might need to pad me because I'm really not that fat." But after I saw the first episode, I was like, "Oh, my God, I have the fattest (rear end) in the world!" I had no idea I was that fat. So this is cathartic for me also."

Alley, now a Jenny Craig spokeswoman and on one of

her diets, said she topped the scales at 207 pounds and is now down to 197. Her goal is to reach 140 pounds.

She said only one person warned her about hurting her career by starring in a series that, at least in part, is about her weight, but she ignored that advice.

"When you're honest about something and you find the humor in something — I mean, I couldn't have been attacked any more than I was being attacked," she said of tabloid reports about her weight gain before "Fat Actress."

"I was under siege 24/7. So it has actually been very liberating to just decide, you know, there's got to be humor in this, I'm not the only person in the world who has gotten fat."

Alley said that after "Veronica's Closet," she returned to a normal life, spending more time with her children. "I turned into Donna Reed — only she didn't get fat," Alley said.

"I was cooking all the time. I started having tons of company again, and I started doing all the things that I hadn't been doing when I was doing a series that I didn't have the time to do. It just sort of crept up on me, I think."

Alley said she's not concerned about the show becoming less funny if she's successful in losing weight. "The show is really more about the state of mind of women and introversions that they experience and how easy it is to sort of prey upon women and their insecurities," she said. "It's actually more about than about just being fat. If I'm skinny in it, I'm sure I'll have some big disease on the cover of The Star. And there's a season [of the show]."

Seemingly stranger than Alley's self-effacing bravado is that the show's writer, Brenda Hampton, created The WB's "7th Heaven."

"7th Heaven" is more the fluke than this," Hampton said. "I started in comedy and I wrote half-hour comedy ... My first love is comedy."

In the premiere episode of "Fat Actress," Alley begs a meeting with Jeff Zucker, president of NBC Universal Television Group. Zucker plays a mean, venal version of himself who's all smiles to Alley's face and talks badly about her weight as soon as she leaves the room.

Alley and Hampton liked Zucker's performance so much, they've invited him back for a second appearance.

"It's very real that of course people would be social, give me a hug, 'Great to see you,' blah, blah, blah," Alley said. "But we know they're going, 'She's [bleeping] fat. What the hell is this? Why in the hell is she so fat?'"

● **SPORTS**

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| JAPAN TV | | JAPAN TV-BS11 | MTV |
| <p>Afternoon 9:00 Traditional Arts of Japan; Noh & Kyogen (3) 3:30 Toray Pan Pacific Open Tennis (6:55) 4:00 Best Movie: The Lions (3)</p> <p>Evening 7:00 U.S. Movie (1994); immortal Beloved (2)(15:42) 8:00 World Cup Alpine Ski Jump in Hokkaido (1) 12:25 E.R., V.I.P. 1:30 British-U.S.-Italian Movie (Hanks, B. Monkey) (1:59:56) 2:30 NFL Football: AFC Championship - New England Patriots vs. Pittsburgh Steelers 3:30 NFL Football: AFC Championship - New York Giants vs. San Francisco 49ers 4:00 U.S. Movie (1995); Scored/A Woman Scorned (1:40:12)</p> | <p>9:10 World News Hour 10:10 World Reports (r) 11:10 History of FBA (r) 11:15 CNN News</p> <p>Afternoon 12:10 NFL Super Bowl Preview: Road to Super Bowl X-Men's Vollebay-Valeague / J Thunder vs. Trefleur 2a Toyota Golden Gate Rallying Series vs. Toray Araya 5:10 X-Men's Vollebay</p> <p>Evening 7:00 Documentary: Rumsfeld and Defense Department 7:10 World Cup Alpine Ski Jump in Sapporo: Large Hill Individual 9:10 CNN News 9:15 U.S. Movie (1994); Swimming World Championships: Men's Downhill 11:15 NBA: Houston Rockets vs. Minnesota Timberwolves 3:10 Asian News 4:00 World Amazing Sports 4:10 What's On Japan 5:10 X-Men's Vollebay 5:15 NFL Football: Mundial</p> | <p>Evening 7:30 NHK News 7:30 2nd Golden Globe Awards Ceremony 1:10 British Movie (1980); The Brycken Boys (1:45)</p> <p>WOWOW</p> <p>Morning 9:00 TV Series: Dawson's Creek 9:30 TV Series: CSI: Miami 10:30 U.S. Movie (1986); The Color of Money (2:10)</p> <p>Afternoon 9:00 U.S. Movie (1990); Jerry Maguire (2:30) 5:00 U.S. Movie (1985); Rain Man (2:22)</p> <p>Evening 10:00 U.S. Movie (2002); Ballistic: Ecce si Sever (1:35) 11:00 U.S. Movie of "Secure Suspense" 12:00 TV Series: Friends the final #22n 1:00 TV Series: Friends the City 1:30 Australian Movie (2001); Nachtfalter (1:35) 4:15 U.S. Movie (2003); Board Head (1:55) 4:20 U.S. Movie (2003); Deep Sleep (1:32) 5:25 Spanish Soccer Live Espanola (v)</p> | <p>Morning 6:30 Wake Up 6:30 Classic Rocks 7:00 Japanese Top 30</p> <p>Afternoon 10:00 Japanese Download Chart Top 10 1:00 World Chart Express Supported by Honda 2:00 Primp My Primp 3:30 America or Bust 4:00 On-Air Chart Top 30</p> <p>Evening 6:00 Concessus: Japan 7:30 Screen 8:00 U.S. Movie (1994); The Color of Money (2:10) 8:30 U.S. Makes a Video 9:00 U.S. Movie (1994); Jerry Maguire (2:30) 10:00 Surf'd Out Special 11:00 Japanese Top 20 with Video PRY 12:00 Primp My Ride 1:00 Check the Rhyme 2:00 America or Bust 3:00 Rock On 3:30 Fresh 4:00 After Hours</p> |
| JAPAN TV-BS7 | | | |
| <p>Morning 6:10 World News 7:10 World News 8:10 World News</p> | | | |

Boys admit plan

CA SACRAMENTO — Two 16-year-old boys admitted they planned a racially motivated Columbine-style massacre of their fellow high-school students in a plea deal that sends them to the county Boys Ranch for no longer than a year.

The deal, which was opposed by the prosecutor and the mother of one of the black students targeted, means the teens could be free in as little as four months.

"What message is this sending to other kids?" said the mother of one of the students targeted. "I am happy my child is alive, but there needs to be more accountability."

Equipped with hand-drawn maps of the Laguna Creek High School cafeteria, the two then-15-year-olds planned to set off bombs and then gun down students as they ran from the explosions, court records show.

The boys were arrested in early February last year after one of their friends went to police. The two had not acted on their plans, but they had attempted to burglarize a sporting goods store that had firearms.

Supplying volunteers

MI EAST LANSING — Michigan State University is ninth-highest in the country this year of schools supplying volunteers to the Peace Corps, with 74 alumni serving as overseas volunteers, the Peace Corps says. Since 1961, Michigan State has produced about 2,000 volunteers.

Deputy AG robbed

FL TAMPA — A deputy to state Attorney General Charlie Crist was beaten and robbed after calling two escorts to his Tampa hotel room, police said.

Authorities said Deputy Attorney General John Rimes, 54, was in town on business and was staying at the Hilton. "Mr. Rimes had called an escort service around 10:30 at night," said police spokeswoman Laura McElroy.

She said two women came to his hotel room. "A short time later, there was a knock at the door," McElroy said. "He looked through the peephole and saw a well-dressed man."

She said Rimes, who works out of the attorney general's Tallahassee office, opened the door and immediately was pepper-sprayed and punched in the head several times. She said the man and the two escorts then stole about \$500 from Rimes and fled.

New high school opens

PA WARRINGTON — Classes opened for students at the new Central Bucks High School South. Nearly 1,600 students had been crammed into two other Bucks County high schools while the new building was going up. It cost about \$83 million.

Men trading spaces

KS TAMPA — All Jim Clemmer and Jim Allen have in common is that they both call Tampa home.

Clemmer lives in Tampa, Kan., while Allen lives in a suburb of Tampa, Fla. Next month, the two men will trade places and discov-

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

er the "other" Tampa. The visits were arranged as part of a contest sponsored by a Tampa, Fla., radio station.

Neither man really knows what to expect on his visit. "I don't know what we'll be doing," Clemmer said of the trip he and his wife, Mary, will make to Florida. "All I know is it ain't gonna cost anything."

For his part, Allen said the idea of spending a weekend in a "small, rural Kansas town" was "intriguing."

Allen, of Brandon, Fla., won the radio contest by picking the winning slogan for Tampa, Fla. — "Paradise Under Construction."

Clemmer was chosen to go to Florida because he is mayor of Tampa, Kan.

Jack Harris, co-host of the station that sponsored the contest, said his stations received several entries because some Floridians want to see what life is like in small-town Kansas is like.

A smarter school

MA NEWBURY — The 18th century boarding school in this town — Governor Dummer Academy — wants to change its name to prevent any smart guys from making jokes about it.

Headmaster John Doggett said the "Dummer" name can make a poor first impression on prospective students and their parents, even though it's simply the surname of Massachusetts Gov. William Dummer, who donated land to start the school.

"Rightly or wrongly, first impressions make a difference," headmaster John Doggett said. "Certainly, when you go outside of the Boston region, the first impression sometimes doesn't convey what the school is all about."

Some alumni think it's a dumb idea.

"It's a horrible move," said Thomas Driscoll of Swampscott, a 1978 graduate and football co-captain who is now the Essex County Clerk of Courts. "Governor Dummer has such tradition. That's what troubles me about this ... The name is very special."

The school decided to change the name in December after about 2½ years of discussion. The Board of Trustees, which includes parents and alumni, will vote on a new name in May.

Jury awards \$15.6M

CA GLENDALE — A jury has awarded \$15.6 million to a man whose image was used for years without his permission on Taster's Choice coffee labels.

Russell Christoff, a former model from Northern California, posed for a two-hour Nestle photo shoot in 1986 but figured it was a bust — until he stumbled across his likeness on a coffee jar while shopping at a drug store in 2002.

A legal dispute with Nestle USA ensued, during which Christoff, 58, declined the company's \$100,000 settlement offer, and Nestle USA turned down his offer to settle for \$8.5 million.

Last week, a Los Angeles County Superior Court jury ordered Nestle USA to pay Christoff \$15.6 million for using his likeness without his permission and profiting from it. The award includes 5 percent of the Glendale-based company's profit from Taster's Choice sales from 1997 to 2003.

During that time, Nestle sold the freeze-dried coffee with labels featuring Christoff's face in the United States, Mexico, South Korea, Japan, Israel and Kuwait. The company's Canadian arm started using his image in 1986.

Static over noise plan

NY NEW YORK — At a hearing on a proposal to quiet down the Big Apple, Mister Softee had a frosty response.

James Conway Jr., whose father started what is now one of the world's largest mobile purveyors of soft-serve ice cream, said such a plan would silence his trucks' familiar jingle and freeze profits.

"The way you knew Mister Softee was in the neighborhood was the song. So without the jingle, our sales will plummet," Conway said at a City Council hearing.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg is trying to revise the Noise Code in response to what has long been the No. 1 complaint of New York residents: The city's too loud.

At the hearing, the proposed revisions ran into a virtual wall of sound. Nightclub owners were displeased about the prospect of having to turn down their music, restaurateurs were worried that their air conditioners would be too loud, and construction workers said they should be able to continue to pile drive and jackhammer at will.



Golfing on the coast

Golfers at Pacific Grove Municipal Golf Course in Pacific Grove, Calif., tee off as huge waves crash along the rocks Tuesday.



Off to a great start

Central Columbia's Joey Scheno dives off the block at the start of the boy's 200 IM race during a home meet against Danville on Tuesday in Lime Ridge, Pa. Scheno would finish the race in first place with a time of 2:07.56.



Chute! It's just fun! A Scottville Elementary School student waits for a ball to drop through the opening in the top of a parachute being floated over his head by a group of classmates and parents during an activity night exercise Tuesday night at West Shore Community College near Ludington, Mich.



Carousel being restored A man prepares to move two antique carousel horses after a news conference at the Little Rock, Ark., Zoo. Pat Chapman of Boca Raton, Fla., an owner of 2004 Kentucky Derby winner Smarty Jones, donated \$10,000 to rehabilitate a carousel horse that will carry Smarty Jones' name when the 80-year-old carousel is restored.



Hoping for a hoop J.R. Mason, 18, takes advantage of the nice weather to shoot some hoops late Tuesday in Burlington, Iowa.



Turtle tales to take home Derby, Kan., sixth-graders, from left, Andrew Freeman, Alex Bush and Matthew Kelzenberg got up close with a western Kansas painted turtle. It was part of the JASON Project's study of the Louisiana wetlands at Wichita State University's Hughes Metropolitan Campus in Wichita, Kan. The JASON Project is a multi-media science and technology program for students nationwide, founded by oceanographer Robert Ballard and named by the Greek mythology character who sailed the seas with his Argonauts in search of the Golden Fleece.

No release for woman

CA SAN RAFAEL — Friederike Kruse claimed to be driven by a supernatural force when she butchered a woman in 1990, screaming, "I am the devil," as police arrested her.

But the former follower of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, who has spent the last 14 years at Napa State Hospital, sat stoically in a courtroom as a prosecutor and defense lawyer sparred over whether she is still a danger to the community.

Judge John Stephen Graham of Marin County Superior Court praised Kruse, 55, for her pleasant demeanor and cooperative testimony, but denied her petition to enroll in a San Francisco outpatient program.

In doing so, he rejected the recommendations of the state Department of Mental Health.

The judge, who has held hearings into Kruse's mental state since September, said it would not be prudent to transfer her from the state mental hospital to a group home in San Francisco.

Relief aid questioned

NC ASHEVILLE — Rep. Charles Taylor wants federal officials to explain why eastern North Carolina got most of the \$20 million for Hurricane Frances relief when most of the damage was in western counties. Taylor said in a letter to FEMA that he'll go to the General Accounting Office or ask for a formal investigation if he doesn't get a satisfactory response.

Did son aid in death?

TX HOUSTON — Authorities scheduled an autopsy Monday to determine whether a man removed a pacemaker from his 85-year-old mother's chest before or after she died.

Ann Hunt Donaldson's death was reported about 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

Authorities who arrived at her home initially thought she died from natural causes, Harris County Sheriff's Lt. Danny Billingsley said.

But emergency workers noticed a cut on her chest.

Billingsley said the woman's son, James Donaldson, told detectives he removed the pacemaker after his mother died of natural causes.

"His excuse for doing it is there had been this ongoing problem, I guess you could say dispute, with the insurance companies and doctors since 1995," Billingsley said. James Donaldson, 59, was charged with tampering with evidence and remains in custody at Harris County Jail. It was unclear if he had an attorney yet.

Detectives asked him to produce the pacemaker, but he didn't turn it over.

Store must pay \$9M

FL ST. PETERSBURG — Dillard's department stores must pay at least \$9.4 million to a girl who lost three fingers when her hand got stuck in an escalator, a jury ruled Tuesday.

Attorneys for Kerrianna Johnson, now 7, said Dillard's managers knew the escalator was dangerous and set up a sham company to make it appear to regula-

tors that the escalators were being maintained.

Kerrianna, who was 5 at the time, lost her fingers as she tried to free her stuck shoe from the escalator during a shopping trip with her mother and two siblings. Jurors learned that more than 80 people had gotten shoes or clothing caught in the down escalator at the Tyrone Square Mall store since 1998.

Dillard's attorneys acknowledged some fault for the escalator, but argued the accident happened because the girl's mother was not supervising her properly.

The award covers medical expenses, pain and suffering, and could go even higher after the jury considers punitive damages. The girl's family is seeking at least \$35.8 million.

Long-distance learning

IN INDIANAPOLIS — An estimated 28,000 Indiana students took college classes through the Internet, called DVD and in the 2003-04 school year, state educators said. The state's seven public universities and three private colleges offer courses that teach what is known as distance learning.

Man sentenced to death

CT HARTFORD — Eduardo Santiago Jr., 25, was sentenced to death by lethal injection after being convicted of shooting a man in exchange for a ride in a snowmobile. Santiago apologized for being involved in the December 2000 murder of Joseph Niwinski, whom he shot in the head as he slept.

Baxley leads for '06

AL MOBILE — Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley leads former Gov. Don Siegelman for the 2006 Democratic gubernatorial nomination, according to a Mobile Register-University of South Alabama poll of 400 likely Democratic voters. It found Baxley supported by 45 percent, Siegelman by 31 percent.

Boy charged with assault

WI MILWAUKEE — A 12-year-old boy has been charged with sexually assaulting a 4-year-old girl in an MCA.

A delinquency petition filed in Milwaukee County Children's Court said a manager looked at a security monitor and noticed the alleged assault taking place.

The manager ran to the weight room and saw the boy pulling up his shorts, the petition said.

The girl said the boy hit her, pushed her down, kicked her, pulled at her pants and choked her with her scarf, according to the petition.

Most of the seven-minute encounter between the unsupervised children was videotaped by security cameras.

The boy appeared Monday before a Children's Court judge on one count of first-degree sexual assault of a child, exposing his genitals, battery and two counts of lewd and lascivious behavior.

If found delinquent, he could be sent to a juvenile institution for up to two years, and the orders could be renewed until he turns 18.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Three battles in Iraq

I am coming to an end of my tour at Logistics Support Area Anacosta, and want to share my thoughts on some observations I have made. I see three battles being fought in the theater.

An external battle: an insurgency and terrorist attacks against Americans in many parts of the world. We are united, one country, one nation. United we will win.

An internal battle: A Marine asked me, "I have killed a human being; am I a bad person? Will God forgive me?" An airman asked me, "Are we doing the right thing?" A soldier asked me, "My buddy is dead. Will it be all in vain?" These battles will go on in our hearts, minds and souls. The victory is a self-will depending on religious beliefs, cultural roots, family background, personal experience, professional norms, organizational values and political bias.

It is the third battle that I have issues with. For the last 5,000 years, the history of Iraq has proved the futility of this battle. When a brother kills another brother, only the external forces win. It is the inter-internal battle we fight every day. It is the battle when we fight with our own. It is the battle of ego, the battle of turf, the battle of position, the battle for control, the battle of desire and it goes on. It is the weakest link in the path to victory. It saps our energy and weakens our roots.

We are all Americans first. All of us ought to carry each one of us forward to victory rather than let our emotions behind. That should be our conviction; that should be our lesson from history.

Dr. (Col.) Sara Saugha
Balad air base, Iraq

Women not ready for infantry

"This in response to the Jan 27 letter "Women would not slack off" about whether women belong in the infantry. I have been in the infantry since 1989, and have been in Iraq, Bosnia and Kosovo. I've seen many women in their support roles, and even then I've seen them cry and whimper about some things, such as wanting to carry an M-16 pistol over an M-16 because the rifle was too heavy, or

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their marching behind their 50-pound rucksack because of the weight.

This is not "women bashing." It's just a fact. I would welcome into the infantry any woman who can carry her own weight. That means 10- to 15-kilometer patrols at night on foot, not by vehicle, carrying 100 pounds of equipment. And for those in the airborne, add 50 pounds of main and reserve parachute.

I was also kind of disturbed by the letter writer's comments regarding the whole birth-control-in-the-field statement, for accidental pregnancies. What kind of activities, other than the infantry missions, should be going on in the first place?

As far as physical training standards, I know there are some women in our Army who can excel in physical standards more than men, but how long can their stamina last? Yes, even men "burn out," but it is my opinion that female soldiers have a long way to go before they come close to competing themselves to the top backbone of the Army: the infantryman.

William R. Lincks II
Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo

Abu Ghraib not real 'torture'

I am sick and tired of hearing about the so-called "torture" that occurred at Abu Ghraib prison. Those detainees weren't put through anything that US troops in enemy territory have done. They were being rescued through Survival, Detainee and Escape training hasn't gone through themselves. Stress deprivation, standing for long hours, control of diet, humiliation and uncomfortable positions are all ways to weaken the determined resistance of a hardened foe. These techniques are nothing compared to the true torture used in US troops in enemy territory against tyranny in modern history.

The detainees have vital battlefield intelligence that needs to be forwarded to combat commanders as soon as possible to prevent further casualties. I fully support the decisions by the intelligence officers and prison guards to conduct interrogations in this manner if it prevents even one casualty of a U.S. or coalition troop. It is really too bad that the U.S. government has to catch clack from a liberal international media that obviously supports the "rights" of terrorists over the protection of our military personnel.

Those troops only made one mistake, and that was to believe that their commanders would support them when the chips were down. Shame on them. I only hope that Stars and Stripes is bold enough to print an opposing point of view.

Staff Sgt. James Scott
Iraq

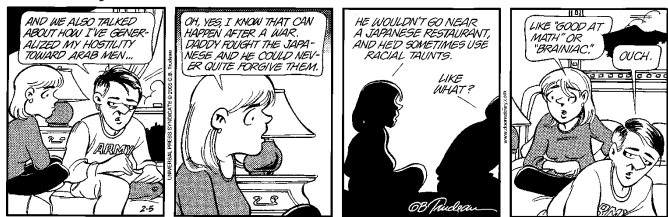
Give Prince Harry a break

I find the whole hullabaloo over Prince Harry's appearance in a Nazi uniform at a costume party to be ludicrous. Many of those protesting it are, in my opinion, doing so to blow horns for their own causes and organizations. Every time we hear of kids (and adults) all around the United States and Europe dress up as witches, knights, ghosts and various monsters. How many of these "er-de-wells" are accused of sponsoring or supporting witchcraft, monarchist, undead or ghoulish causes?

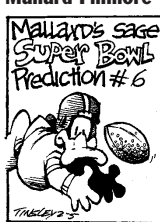
Prince Harry wore a costume — he never said it was anything else. He was at a costume party, not a Nazi rally. Give the man a break.

Jeff Smith
Hohenfels, Germany

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



Mallard Fillmore

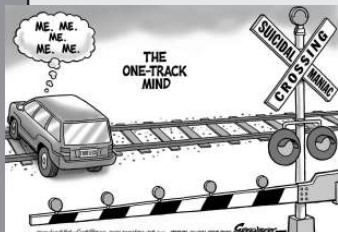


In response to the recurrent myth that "There's more domestic violence on Super Bowl Sunday than any other day," the Fillmore Foundation will release data...

"Proving that 'there are more obsolete feminists making stuff up on Super Bowl Sunday than any other day...'"

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



Horoscope

The Capricorn moon helps prepare us emotionally for the upcoming shift of Mars into this serious-minded sign. It's a productive weekend if you count the planning stage of a project as being productive — and you should! Most projects are made or broken in the planning stage. Whimsical Aquarius energy weighs in heavily.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (February 5). The glimpse of good fortune you get in the next three weeks is only a preview of all that is to come this year. It's such an abundance, you'll probably feel guilty about accepting it. Don't! You can do good in the world by graciously receiving gifts and developing a solid plan before using them. Sagittarius and Scorpio are romantic allies.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Demonstrate the depth of your emotion, or loved ones may mistakenly think that you don't care. Dare to act slightly out of character. Love and new relationships are found around activities that are novel, odd or thrilling.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The close proximity of motivated people makes you work harder than ever for your goal. Someone may try and coerce you into endorsing something you don't believe in, so be strong.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're in a position to take a stand, and many will listen — you've got the presence and poise, as well as an interesting take on the same old message. Due to your new social status, a romance develops at lightning speed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The tendency to think against yourself is prominent. It's one thing to see your problems from a different angle and quite another to constantly criticize yourself. Resolve to be positive and regain control of your thoughts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There is a French law forbidding the use of

English phrases for what could aptly be said in French. You'll feel a bit of that spirit today as you try to preserve the special "language" you share with a loved one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Your body is a classroom now as you learn about yourself through the pursuit of health and vigorous activities. Both physical ailments and physical endowments have spiritual and mental causes. Consider what you may be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Social graces help you move your fondest projects forward. Letting someone else be the star is called for. If you give a compliment, be sure not to follow it up with a suggestion, request or criticism.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The quest for mental stimulation is on. Your commentary on political, artistic or intellectual matters is met with an equal and opposite opinion. You might fall in love with someone who has the guts to debate you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Hearing that you might have some competition will really get you on the ball. A romantic encounter turns into an adventure. Travel is indicated — there's no telling where new friends can lead you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You get the creeping feeling you were supposed to do something or you should be somewhere you're not. It's a sign to feel the scene. Once in motion, you'll figure out where to go next.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may observe human behavior around you that is less about common sense and more about money. Your integrity could be experienced as a threat to some people, but stand firm in your beliefs.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Managing your vices and virtues is a balancing act, and today, you gather a small audience to stare in wonder — will you pull it off? Yes, but something must drop — preferably a bad habit, not a good one.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



else be the star is called for. If you give a compliment, be sure not to follow it up with a suggestion, request or criticism.

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



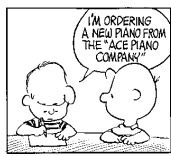
Red and Rover



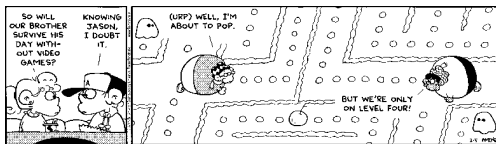
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fox trot



B.C.



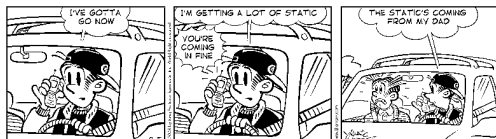
Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



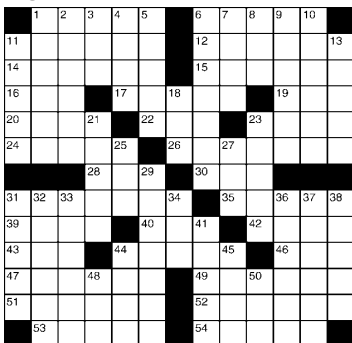
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



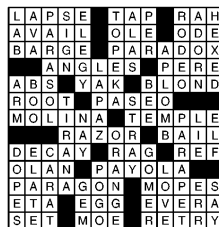
Across

- 1 Spills the beans
- 6 An arm and a leg
- 11 Roughly 90 days
- 12 Bobolink's cousin
- 14 Nautical
- 15 Military pilots
- 16 "Hail, Caesar!"
- 17 Venetian group of moviedom
- 19 Foundation
- 20 Take it from the top
- 22 Montmartre monarch
- 23 Host Letterman
- 24 Discovery
- 26 Liked a lot
- 28 Shad source
- 30 Something to chew on
- 31 Like Hester's "A"
- 35 Bas-relief material
- 39 Huff and puff
- 40 Illuminated
- 42 Lean-to
- 43 William Tell's home
- 44 "The Crucible" setting
- 46 Difficult, to a cockney
- 47 Slay
- 49 Hitchcock movie
- 51 "Hogan's Heroes" locale
- 52 —mâché

Down

- 1 Eager one?
- 2 Texas city
- 3 "— was saying, ..."
- 4 Capital until 1990
- 5 Villainous look
- 6 Dock job
- 7 1998 Goo Goo Dolls song
- 8 It came to Earth 3/23/01
- 9 City of India
- 10 Place for an ace?
- 11 High-IQ
- 13 Over and done with
- 18 Caviar
- 21 Impossible to miss
- 23 Capitol's caps
- 25 Right angle
- 27 Prison
- 29 Olio
- 31 They jingle-jangle-jingle
- 32 Insertion marks
- 33 Critter
- 34 Before
- 36 Singer Twain
- 37 Sitcom, e.g.
- 38 Stranger
- 41 Arizona city
- 44 Thailand, once
- 45 Title of respect
- 48 "The Greatest"
- 50 Record speed

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-5

CRYPTOQUIP

K F D E W C W M D C W Z Z
X D Z U D P D X F W M Y Z L
M G V B N T V M . T E D O T L Z A
M W G F D N F X T K M W N
W Y D P D X B U N O F .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WOULD DEMONSTRATE HOW TO THREAD A NEEDLE, BUT YOU'D PROBABLY MISS THE POINT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals L

Sleeping situation creates rift

Dear Abby: My son, "Bobby," and his girlfriend, "Claire," had a baby two weeks ago. Bobby lives with us and Claire lives with her parents, although they hope to get a place together soon.

Bobby and Claire are having a problem deciding on where to sleep. They each want to be with their family. They were going to alternate one night at each house, but Claire's mom said it wouldn't be good for the baby, as the baby needs a regular place to live. Is it bad for a newborn to switch beds?

Both houses are equipped with all the baby things the little one needs.

What can I do to help them resolve their issues without hurting anyone's feelings?

My son wants to be in Claire's and the baby's lives. I just don't know how to help him.

—Wants to Help in Ohio

Dear Wants to Help: The biggest favor you could do for Bobby and Claire would be to encourage both of them to complete their education before moving anywhere.

The fact that your son and his girlfriend can't decide which house to sleep in should be a clue that neither he nor she is mature enough to be moving out on their own.

Dear Abby: I recently left my husband of 14 years, "Derrick." I thought we were friends who my friends will no longer associate with me. Derrick and I were very good at pretending, so everyone thought we had a great marriage.

Now that I have moved out, they all think I just decided one morning that I no longer wanted to be married. What they do

not know is that Derrick raped me and put me through 12 years of emotional and verbal abuse.

During one of the marriage counseling sessions I mentioned the rape, and he turned to me and said, "That was 12 years ago. Get over it."

That was when I decided to file for divorce.

Should I go to my friends and explain it to them, or just find new friends?

—Lonely in Wichita

Dear Lonely: If it will make you feel better, go to your friends and explain the truth.

However, if they were truly your friends they would already be supporting you—and, in my opinion, you would be better off without them.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Dear Abby



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TELIE

TARAP

TEFNIC

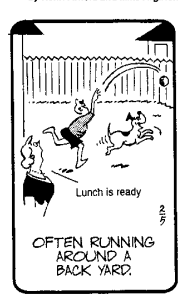
SKENIC

Ar: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: PRINT BEFOG GAMSLE ERMINE

Answer: Why the window washer took a break—FOR "PANE" RELIEF

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Find friend to handle funeral plans

Dear Annie: I am an elderly bachelor and I have one sister, so I asked her to take care of my funeral arrangements when I stressed repeatedly that that is all I want her to do. I set up arrangements to pay for everything.

Since then, my sister repeatedly has done everything I have asked her not to do. She has taken it upon herself to sign for my mail and call my doctors without asking. She criticizes my friends and other family members, and is rude, arrogant, controlling and greedy. Her own children won't talk to her after myself. I thought that she had changed after all these years, but I was wrong. I have tried talking to her, but nothing sinks in. Consequently, I am going to have to change all the arrangements I made regarding the funeral, will, etc., which I hate to do, but I guess I have no

Annie's Mailbox



choice. My sister is driving me up the wall. What do you think I should do?

Dear Sam: Do you have a close friend, perhaps a lawyer or a banker, who can take care of these details for you? If so, arrange it and inform your busy-body sister that she will no longer be troubled with these issues because you have removed her from the process. This may be extra work for you, but it will be worth it. Good luck.

Dear Annie: I read with great interest the letter from "Tired of Breathing Through My Mouth," who said his wife emitted an unusual scent. Consulting her physician was excellent advice, but the odor could be from a change in laundry detergent or fabric softener.

My father was an immaculate man but started smelling very strange.

After some detective work, we found out that my mother had changed from her regular fabric softener to a cheaper one. It seems that his natural body scent, combined with the new softener, was worse than a skunk in a patch of stinkweed. After rewashing his entire wardrobe, Dad was back to his sweet-smelling self.

—Cheap Isn't Everything
Dear Cheap: Thanks for the suggestion. Here is another: From Diamondhead, Miss.: I'm a retired chemist and can tell him his wife's odor is probably from her hairspray, mousse or makeup. I've noticed a similar smell on my wife and several other women in elevators and in church. As a test, his wife should wash her hair thoroughly and not put anything in it for a couple of days.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"Mommy, my room is all cleaned up! Come and look, it might not last!"

GRAFFITI

CAN YOU WIN A PILLSBURY BAKE-OFF WITH A BETTY CROCKER RECIPE?

MPA 2/6

Dennis the Menace



"WHY CAN'T WE EAT DESSERT FIRST, THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SAVING ROOM FOR IT?"

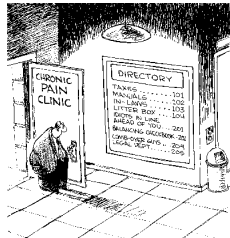
© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"Well, guess who's home a little early from today's castle stage?"

Non Sequitur



26

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|-------------------|----|----|----|
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| New York | 24 | 62 | -1 |
| New Jersey | 19 | 41 | -3 |
| Philadelphia | 19 | 41 | -3 |
| New York | 18 | 40 | -3 |

| Southeast Division | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|---------|
| | Pt | GB | |
| Miami | 34 | 70 | -2 |
| Washington | 28 | 59 | -5 1/2 |
| Orlando | 23 | 55 | -7 |
| Charlotte | 10 | 23 | -20 1/2 |
| Atlanta | 9 | 20 | -21 1/2 |

| Central Division | | | |
|------------------|----|----|---------|
| | Pt | GB | |
| Detroit | 28 | 69 | -1 |
| Cleveland | 28 | 59 | -1 |
| Indiana | 22 | 51 | -4 1/2 |
| Indiana | 20 | 45 | -5 |
| Milwaukee | 16 | 37 | -10 1/2 |

Western Conference

| Southwest Division | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|-----|
| | Pt | GB | |
| San Antonio | 30 | 57 | -1 |
| Dallas | 30 | 57 | -1 |
| San Antonio | 26 | 51 | -5 |
| Houston | 26 | 51 | -5 |
| New Orleans | 17 | 28 | -13 |

| Northwest Division | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|---------|
| | Pt | GB | |
| Seattle | 31 | 70 | -2 |
| Minnesota | 24 | 52 | -8 |
| Denver | 26 | 43 | -12 |
| Portland | 26 | 43 | -12 |
| Utah | 15 | 31 | -26 1/2 |

| Pacific Division | | | |
|------------------|----|----|---------|
| | Pt | GB | |
| Phoenix | 37 | 72 | -1 |
| Sacramento | 31 | 68 | -4 1/2 |
| L.A. Lakers | 24 | 58 | -10 |
| L.A. Lakers | 19 | 49 | -15 1/2 |
| Golden State | 12 | 36 | -23 1/2 |

Wednesday's games

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Boston 110, New Jersey 99 | |
| Toronto 104, Indiana 97 | |
| Houston 118, Philadelphia 95 | |
| Detroit 99, Atlanta 81 | |
| Phoenix 107, Dallas 99 | |
| Dallas 99, New Orleans 82 | |
| Portland 97, Denver 94 | |
| Sacramento 111, Golden State 107, OT | |

Thursday's games

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Cleveland at Miami | |
| Orlando at Memphis | |
| San Antonio at L.A. Lakers | |
| Portland at Phoenix | |
| Dallas at Philadelphia | |
| Atlanta at Milwaukee | |
| Washington at Toronto | |
| Orlando at Boston | |
| L.A. Clippers at Milwaukee | |
| Minnesota at Minnesota | |
| New York at Sacramento | |
| Charlotte at Portland | |
| San Antonio at Golden State | |

Saturday's games

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Detroit at New Jersey | |
| Indiana at Atlanta | |
| Orlando at Washington | |
| Chicago at Miami | |
| Atlanta at Cleveland | |
| New Orleans at Utah | |
| Phoenix at Phoenix | |
| Golden State at Denver | |
| Sacramento at Seattle | |
| Golden State at Portland | |

Wednesday

| Rockets 118, 76ers 95 | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------|
| Houston | McGrady 10-10 | 9-10 | 34 |
| Philadelphia | Yao 4-6 | 10-22 | Westley |
| 46-121 | Sura 4-9-10 | Strickland 0-1-2 | 2-12 |
| 14-20 | 5-10 | 4-10 | 1-2 |
| 5-6-13 | Brown 1-2-0-4 | Barrett 0-0-0-0 | 0-0 |
| Portland 97-29 | 118 | 76 | 95 |

| Philadelphia | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Philadelphia | Korver 2-9-15 | Thomas | 15-20 |
| 1-6-2 | Dalbey 6-10-15-7 | McGraw 1-6 | 25 |
| 1-2-5 | Johnson 2-4-4-8 | Jackman 4-8-9 | 10 |
| 10-11 | 4-4-8 | 1-2-5 | 1-2 |
| 5-6-13 | Brown 1-2-0-4 | Barrett 0-0-0-0 | 0-0 |
| Portland 97-29 | 118 | 76 | 95 |

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| Portland 97-29 | 118 | 76 | 95 |

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| 5-6-13 | Brown 1-2-0-4 | Barrett 0-0-0-0 | 0-0 |
| Portland 97-29 | 118 | 76 | 95 |

| Suns 108, Timberwolves 79 | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|
| Phoenix | Richardson 51-2 | 3-5 | 17 |
| 11-10 | 10-10 | 1-4 | 7-2 |
| 1-2-5 | Johnson 2-4-4-8 | Jackman 4-8-9 | 10 |
| 10-11 | 4-4-8 | 1-2-5 | 1-2 |
| 5-6-13 | Brown 1-2-0-4 | Barrett 0-0-0-0 | 0-0 |
| Portland 97-29 | 118 | 76 | 95 |

| Suns 108, Timberwolves 79 | | | |
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| Phoenix | Richardson 51-2 | 3-5 | 17 |
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| 5-6-13 | Brown 1-2-0-4 | Barrett 0-0-0-0 | 0-0 |
| Portland 97-29 | 118 | 76 | 95 |

| Suns 108, Timberwolves 79 | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|
| Phoenix | Richardson 51-2 | 3-5 | 17 |
| 11-10 | 10-10 | 1-4 | 7-2 |
| 1-2-5 | Johnson 2-4-4-8 | Jackman 4-8-9 | 10 |
| 10-11 | 4-4-8 | 1-2-5 | 1-2 |
| 5-6-13 | Brown 1-2-0-4 | Barrett 0-0-0-0 | 0-0 |
| Portland 97-29 | 118 | 76 | 95 |

| Suns 108, Timberwolves 79 | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|
| Phoenix | Richardson 51-2 | 3-5 | 17 |
| 11-10 | 10-10 | 1-4 | 7-2 |
| 1-2-5 | Johnson 2-4-4-8 | Jackman 4-8-9 | 10 |
| 10-11 | 4-4-8 | 1-2-5 | 1-2 |
| 5-6-13 | Brown 1-2-0-4 | Barrett 0-0-0-0 | 0-0 |
| Portland 97-29 | 118 | 76 | 95 |

Raptors 98, Pacers 97

| Raptors 98, Pacers 97 | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|
| Toronto | Peterson 21-2 | 1-5 | 20 |
| 11-10 | 10-10 | 1-4 | 7-2 |
| 1-2-5 | Johnson 2-4-4-8 | Jackman 4-8-9 | 10 |
| 10-11 | 4-4-8 | 1-2-5 | 1-2 |
| 5-6-13 | Brown 1-2-0-4 | Barrett 0-0-0-0 | 0-0 |
| Portland 97-29 | 118 | 76 | 95 |

| Indiana | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|
| Indiana | Jackson 5-17 | 6-8 | 10 |
| 1-2-5 | Johnson 2-4-4-8 | Jackman 4-8-9 | 10 |
| 10-11 | 4-4-8 | 1-2-5 | 1-2 |
| 5-6-13 | Brown 1-2-0-4 | Barrett 0-0-0-0 | 0-0 |
| Portland 97-29 | 118 | 76 | 95 |

| Indiana | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|
| Indiana | Jackson 5-17 | 6-8 | 10 |
| 1-2-5 | Johnson 2-4-4-8 | Jackman 4-8-9 | 10 |
| 10-11 | 4-4-8 | 1-2-5 | 1-2 |
| 5-6-13 | Brown 1-2-0-4 | Barrett 0-0-0-0 | 0-0 |
| Portland 97-29 | 118 | 76 | 95 |

| Celtics 110, Nets 89 | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Boston | Carter 9-19 | 4-22 | Collins |
| 0-2-0 | Kutub 6-1 | 0-0 | 4-10 |
| 1-2-5 | Johnson 2-4-4-8 | Jackman 4-8-9 | 10 |
| 10-11 | 4-4-8 | 1-2-5 | 1-2 |
| 5-6-13 | Brown 1-2-0-4 | Barrett 0-0-0-0 | 0-0 |
| Portland 97-29 | 118 | 76 | 95 |

| Celtics 110, Nets 89 | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
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| 10-11 | 4-4-8 | 1-2-5 | 1-2 |
| 5-6-13 | Brown 1-2-0-4 | Barrett 0-0-0-0 | 0-0 |
| Portland 97-29 | 118 | 76 | 95 |

| Pistons 99, Hawks 84 | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| Atlanta | Harrington 8-10 | 11-13 | Walker |
| 6-19-13 | Exler 4-0-2 | Childers 4-10-9 | 0 |
| 1-2-5 | Johnson 2-4-4-8 | Jackman 4-8-9 | 10 |
| 10-11 | 4-4-8 | 1-2-5 | 1-2 |
| 5-6-13 | Brown 1-2-0-4 | Barrett 0-0-0-0 | 0-0 |
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| 5-6-13 | Brown 1-2-0-4 | Barrett 0-0-0-0 | 0-0 |
| Portland 97-29 | 118 | 76 | 95 |

Jera 0-1, Cabarkapa 0-1). Fouled Out—None.
 Rebounds—Sacramento 64 (Miller 17), Golden
 State 57 (Najera 11). Assists—Sacramento
 26 (Bibby 11), Golden State 29 (Fisher 8).
 Total Fouls—Sacramento 18, Golden State
 25. Technicals—Golden State Defensive
 Three Second. A—17,347. (19,596).

Tomjanovich steps in, says he won't coach again

Lakers would consider Jackson's return

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Rudy Tomjanovich feels good about what the Los Angeles Lakers accomplished during his brief tenure as coach.

Problem is, he was unable to enjoy it while it was happening — especially in the past month when the stress of his job really got to him.

So Tomjanovich resigned Wednesday, vowing he'll never coach again.

"I was so proud of what we did. This isn't about that kind of stuff," Tomjanovich said at a news conference. "I looked at what we did and at times, I thought it was miraculous.

"A month ago, I became conscious of not feeling good. It just seemed like I got deeper and deeper into not feeling good. Why this happened now and why my body couldn't take it now, I do not have the answer.

"All I was thinking about was how to win the next damn game. I couldn't shut it off when I was away from the arena. It just kept wearing on me and wearing on me and my resistance got low and it hurt my health."

Tomjanovich went 24-19 as Phil Jackson's successor, with a revamped lineup built around Kobe Bryant's superstar guard has been sidelined the past nine games with a sprained ankle.

Included in Tomjanovich's record are the two wins the Lakers earned under assistant Frank Hamblen in games Tomjanovich missed this week because of a stomach virus.

Tomjanovich, 56, will remain with the Lakers as a consultant, mainly working as a scout.

"We respect Rudy's concerns for his health, which is of course the paramount issue," team owner Dr. Jerry Buss said in a statement.

General Manager Mitch Kupchak said Hamblen would stay on indefinitely as coach of the Lakers, but didn't rule out the return of Jackson.

The 57-year-old Hamblen, a career assistant who "be our coach going forward," Kupchak said. "Whether that changes in the next month, three months, a year, remains to be seen."

Kupchak acknowledged that Jackson's name will come up but said he hasn't been in contact with the former Lakers coach.

Not yet, at least. Kupchak also said he didn't believe there was an urgency to hire another coach.

Tomjanovich signed a \$30 million, five-year contract last summer to replace Jackson, who left after guiding the Lakers to three NBA championships and a berth into the finals in his five years on the job.

Jackson and Buss said at the time that the separation was mutual.

Tomjanovich addressed the team in an emotional meeting shortly before speaking to the media, and said the get-together with his players got quite emotional.

"I don't cry a lot. I did in that situation," he said.

"He just basically came in and poured his heart out to us," Bryant said. "We just wish him the best. He's extremely passionate, emotional. But he's a fighter. To see him down like that, it really hurt and shocked us all."

Naturally, Bryant was asked about Jackson, who wrote a tell-all book released before the season that portrayed Bryant as aloof and difficult to coach.

"Rudy's situation is a very serious situation. I can't go from that to talk about successors," Bryant said. "It really doesn't matter to me. I'm just the guy in the middle. ... I've said that time and time again, I love Phil as a coach.

If that's the decision, I'll roll with it."

So will Hamblen, who seems ready to handle whatever comes his way. His only other experience as a head coach came in 1991-92 when he went 23-2 with Milwaukee when Del Harris was sidelined by stomach problems.

"Phil has his lot in life, I have mine," Hamblen said. "Sure, you'd always like to be an NBA head coach. If I owned a team or was in charge, I'd want Phil Jackson also. He's got nine rings. My ego's not that big."

"If it ended tomorrow, I'd say these 36 years have been a great ride. It really hasn't sunk in yet about me being the coach of the Lakers."

Hamblen's first game in that capacity comes Thursday night, when the Lakers try to extend their winning streak to a season-high three games against the San Antonio Spurs, whose 37-10 record is the best in the NBA.

The Lakers then begin a five-game road trip Sunday at Houston.

Bryant said he hopes to play sometime during the trip.

"I think this is the best decision for me and the Lakers," Tomjanovich said. "I know I did become consumed and maybe — I can't remember exactly how I was before — but I'd go for a walk and think that was an outlet. But all I thought about was basketball while I was walking."

"Maybe I'm an old general that needs to get his butt off the front line and do something else."

Tomjanovich did a good job of keeping his problems from his players.

"We didn't see it coming," Chuckie Atkins said. "He was able to hide it pretty well. I'm going to miss him."

Said Brian Grant: "When you leave the building, you're supposed to leave things here. He couldn't do that. It can make you sick, it really can."

Thomas won't leave Knicks for Lakers

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Isiah Thomas took himself out of the running for the Los Angeles Lakers' coaching job, issuing a statement Wednesday saying he was committed to remaining in his current position as president of the New York Knicks.

The Lakers' job opened up when Rudy Tomjanovich resigned, citing health issues, and Thomas' name was floated as a possible candidate to be the eventual successor.

Thomas has maintained he would like to return to coaching some day, although he has ruled out being both coach and president of the Knicks.

New York has lost 14 of its past 16 games to drop from first to fourth place in the Atlantic Division. Thomas made a coaching change a week and a half ago, replacing Lenny Wilkens with Herb Williams.

"All my focus is going into rebuilding this franchise, and any innuendo that I would leave my position because of the difficult stretch the team is currently going through is incorrect," said Thomas,

NBA briefs

who is on a scouting trip in Europe.

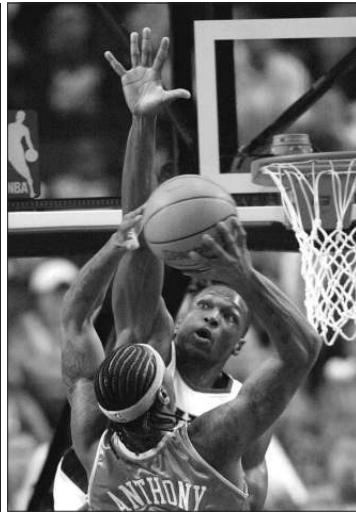
"I have a duty to the organization, our ownership and to our fans to find ways, both short and long term, to return the Knickerbockers to a championship caliber team, and I am steadfast in that commitment."

Murphy goes on Warriors' injured list

OAKLAND, Calif. — Forward Troy Murphy went on the Golden State Warriors' injured list Wednesday with a broken toe.

The Warriors activated Zarko Cabarkapa from the injured list to fill the roster spot of Murphy, who was hurt in Friday night's loss to Seattle. Murphy missed Saturday's game against the Los Angeles Clippers, and the team isn't sure how long he will be out.

Murphy has averaged 16.2 points in 42 games this season, and he ranks fourth in the NBA with 11.2 rebounds per game.



Blazers forward Theo Ratliff goes up to defend Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony during the third quarter. Anthony was held to seven points.

Portland singles out Anthony, tops Denver

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Ruben Patterson got a lot of satisfaction limiting high-scoring Carmelo Anthony to just seven points.

Patterson was all over Anthony in Portland's 97-94 victory over Denver on Wednesday night, holding him to single digits for just the sixth time in his career.

"I think I got my job done," said a smiling Patterson, who has been putting emphasis on his defense as well as his offense.

Patterson got a lot of help from Theo Ratliff and Joel Przybilla. "It was hard. If I beat Ruben, then it was Theo. And if I beat him, then it was Przybilla coming," Anthony said. "So they were making it hard for me."

Nick Van Exel scored 26 points, and Damon Stoudamire added 17 points and 10 assists to help the Trail Blazers win for the third time in five games after a six-game losing streak. Portland also snapped new Denver coach George Karl's three-game winning streak.

"You want to win them all, but if you'd told me when I started we'd be 3-1 I probably would have given you a lot of money," Karl said.

Then he turned serious: "We need to stay focused now. We can't have a lull."

Rookie Sebastian Telfair hit a three-pointer and Darius Miles — in his first game back after a two-game suspension — had a

dunk off Stoudamire's jumper to give the Trail Blazers an 81-76 lead midway through the final period.

After Van Exel made a three-pointer with 2 minutes left, Patterson's tip-in made it 89-83 for Portland, and the game slipped away from the Nuggets.

Miles was suspended by the Blazers for insubordination and conduct detrimental to the team. He entered the game early in the second quarter to a smattering of boos from the Rose Garden crowd.

Miles' suspension came after he blew up at coach Maurice Cheeks during a practice session last week. Miles later released an apology to fans, but conspicuously did not include Cheeks.

Miles said he stood by his statement. As for his relationship now with Cheeks, he said, "We're cool, he's a good man."

Stoudamire said he hoped Miles learned from the incident.

"I think we can get through it, but we need people to grow up," Stoudamire said.

Andre Miller had 27 points and nine assists for the Nuggets. The Trail Blazers held Anthony scoreless in the first half.

Anthony was 0-for-6 from the floor in the half, and 3-for-14 for the game.

"You've got to give a lot of credit to Ruben. ... People don't realize how well he's playing defensively," Przybilla said. "He shuts down every small forward when he's on the court. As a team we realize that."

A devil of a game

Demon Deacons just manage to hold off Blue Devils

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Taron Downey knows all too well what it's like to be at the free-throw line with a victory hanging in the balance.

He was there last month against Florida State, when his missed free throw cost Wake Forest a win.

This time, he made both with 2 seconds to play to help the seventh-ranked Demon Deacons hang on for a 92-89 victory over Duke on Wednesday night.

"I thought about Florida State, I'm not going to lie," Downey said. "I just stood up there and said 'Please don't let them be short, let them go in.'"

Wake Forest (18-3, 6-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) wouldn't have needed Downey's free throws if not for a late flurry of three-pointers by Duke's J.J. Redick.

The Deacons had built a 14-point lead, but Redick chipped into it by making three three-pointers in the final 2:14 and Sean Dockery also hit one as Duke (16-2, 6-2) cut to 90-89 with 3 seconds to play.

"His desire to win could not have been exemplified in any higher fashion. He was magnificent," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said of Redick. "His demeanor was the key to bringing us back."

After Downey made his free throws, Duke had one last chance, but Redick's off-balance three fell short at the buzzer.



Wake Forest's Chris Paul (3) raises a fist at the end of the Demon Deacons' 92-89 victory over Duke on Wednesday night.

"Actually, I thought it was going to be in for me," Redick said. "I just left it a little short."

Chris Paul scored 23 points to help Wake Forest improve to 11-0 at home with defeats of North Carolina and now Duke.

"It's not a crazy, unbelievable upset anymore when we beat a North Carolina or a Duke," Paul

said. "That's because we know we can beat anyone as long as we just treat them like anyone else."

Eric Williams finished with 19 points and 13 rebounds for Wake Forest. Justin Gray had 16 points and Vytas Danelius had 12.

Redick finished with 33 points and made five three-pointers in 13 attempts. Shelden Williams had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Lee Melchionni scored 13.

Duke came in with a better record and a higher ranking but, aside from victories over Oklahoma and North Carolina State, the Blue Devils have yet to fully prove themselves this season.

A victory at Wake Forest would have been a step in the right direction.

Instead, the Demon Deacons forced 13 turnovers — eight were steals — with five blocks and out-rebounded Duke 44-37.

The Blue Devils have been short on depth most of the season because of injuries, and are limiting Shavlik Randolph's playing time as he slowly returns from a bout with monocephalus. The bench got even shorter in the end when Daniel Ewing fouled out with 7:22 to play after scoring just five points in 16 minutes.

"We need Daniel to play more and better," Krzyzewski said. "I am really surprised that we had an opportunity to win without Daniel."

Once Ewing was out, Wake Forest opened a 14-point lead, but Redick pulled the Blue Devils back into it with his late baskets.



Bode Miller makes a turn on one ski during the downhill portion of the men's combined on Thursday in the World Alpine Ski Championships at Bormio, Italy. Despite losing a ski near the top of the course, Miller skied much of the way down on one leg before falling near the bottom.

Austrian wins gold after Miller mishap

BY ANDREW DAMPF
The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — Austria's Benjamin Raich won the combined Alpine World Ski Championships on Thursday, his first victory in a major international meet. Defending champion Bode Miller was eliminated after losing a ski in the downhill.

Raich, the bronze medalist in Saturday's super-G won by Miller, was fifth after the opening downhill leg and took the lead with the fastest time in the first of two slalom runs. He concluded the grueling day-long event by posting victory with the seventh-fastest time in the final slalom leg, run under the lights.

"It was a great day for me," Raich said. "I made a good downhill run and also had decent slalom runs."

Raich's combined time on the Stelvio course was 3 minutes, 19.10 seconds. Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal earned the silver medal, 0.91 seconds behind, and Italy's Giorgio Rocca won the bronze, 0.98 back. Austria's Michael Walchhofer, the leader after the downhill portion, was fourth.

Svindal and Rocca had to wait a few minutes to learn where they finished while officials examined tape. They eventually ruled that Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway straddled a gate midway through his final run. Aamodt was second until being disqualified.

"I wasn't sure if I straddled, I couldn't tell. That's why I continued," Aamodt said.

Raich, winner of 15 races in his World Cup career, won the bronze medal in the combined in

the 2002 Olympics and captured the only World Cup combined race this season, at Wengen, Switzerland. He entered the combined as a co-favorite with Miller, the only skier he trails in the overall World Cup standings.

Miller's ski loosened just after he landed a short jump on the top part of the downhill course. To the delight of the fans, the American completed most of the course on one ski, dropping into a tuck position on occasion. He eventually fell to the snow in exhaustion shortly before the finish.

"I felt fine," Miller said. "There was nothing I could do. The binding was fine."

World Championships

Men's Combined
at Bormio, Italy
Stelvio course

After downhill and two slalom legs (run times in parentheses):
1. Benjamin Raich, Austria, 3 minutes, 19.10 seconds (1:53.41-45:06-30:28)
2. Aksel Lund Svindal, Norway, 3:20.01 (1:56:42-39:58)
3. Giorgio Rocca, Italy, 3:20.08 (1:57:42-39:50)
4. Michael Walchhofer, Austria, 3:20.05 (1:57:42-39:50)
5. Silvan Zurbriggen, Switzerland, 3:20.18 (1:53:47-39:50)
6. Lasse Kjus, Norway, 3:21.34 (1:57:42-39:50)
7. Daniel Albrecht, Switzerland, 3:21.37 (1:54:17-45:16)
8. Pierrick Bouteiller, France, 3:21.53 (1:56:42-39:50)
9. John Kucera, Canada, 3:22.73 (1:53:47-39:50)
10. François Bourque, Switzerland, 3:22.90 (1:53:49-41:15-46:10).

Also
United States, 3:23.95 (1:57:30-40:17-40:05)
Bode Miller, United States, and Kyohei Koyzi, Czech Republic, failed to finish the downhill.

Martin Vrabec, Czech Republic, was disqualified in the downhill.
Roger Cruckthorn, Britain, and Erik Guy, Canada, did not start the slalom.
Kurt Endl, Austria; Marc Berthod, Switzerland; Alexander Horosilov, Russia; and Sergei Komarov, Russia, did not finish the first slalom run.
Kjetil Andre Aamodt, Norway, was disqualified in the second slalom run.

Louisville sweeps Cincinnati

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Freshman forward Juan Palacios scored 17 points and banked in an unlikely three-pointer to seal No. 9 Louisville's 77-70 victory over No. 18 Cincinnati on Wednesday night in a showdown of Conference USA co-leaders.

Taquan Dean scored 19 points, and David Williams had 10 rebounds for the Cardinals (19-3, 7-1 Conference USA), who have won eight in a row and 13 of 14.

Eric Hicks matched a career-high with 21 points to lead Cincinnati (17-4, 6-2), which lost both games against Louisville this season and has dropped six of the past 10 in the series.

No. 10 Oklahoma St. 77, Kansas St. 57: At Stillwater, Okla., Joey Graham scored 23 points and pulled down 10 rebounds, and John Lucas III had 19 points and 10 assists for Oklahoma State.

Daniel Bobik had 13 points and a career-high 11 rebounds in his return to the starting lineup, helping the Cowboys (16-3, 6-2 Big 12) extend the longest current home winning streak in the country to 26 games.

No. 14 Oklahoma 69, Texas A&M 65: At Norman, Okla., Jay Gray scored 22 of his 24 points in

Men's Top 25 Roundup

the second half and Oklahoma overcame a 16-point deficit.

Drew Lavender gave the Sooners (17-3, 6-1 Big 12) the lead for good with a three-pointer from the corner with 5:36 remaining. The Aggies (14-5, 3-5) pulled within in two points with just more than a minute remaining, but Gray scored on a layup and Jaison Williams and Lavender each hit free throws to help Oklahoma hold on.

Terrell Everett scored 20 points for Oklahoma, which rebounded from a surprising loss at Iowa State that snapped a 10-game winning streak.

No. 19 Wisconsin 73, Northwestern 58: At Madison, Wis., Kamron Taylor's 18 points led five Wisconsin players in double figures.

Despite the absence of leading scorer Alando Tucker for the second straight game because of a right foot injury, the Badgers (15-4, 6-2 Big Ten) led throughout in their first home game since top-ranked Illinois snapped their 38-game home winning streak last week.

No. 23 Connecticut 81, No.

24 Villanova 76: At Hartford, Conn., Rashad Anderson scored 21 points and a made key block in the closing seconds, leading Connecticut over Villanova.

The Huskies (13-5, 5-3 Big East) got their first victory over a ranked opponent in four tries and also snapped Villanova's three-game win streak.

That run for the Wildcats (12-5, 4-4) included an 83-62 upset of then-No. 2 Kansas.

Charlie Villanueva's free throw with 1:22 left put the Huskies up 73-72. Anderson blocked a shot in the lane by Randy Foye on the Wildcats' next possession, leading to Villanueva's hook shot on the other end for a 75-72 Connecticut lead.

No. 25 Georgia Tech 64, Florida St. 61: At Atlanta, Will Bynum made up for a poor first half by hitting a tiebreaking three-pointer with 77 seconds left for Georgia Tech (17-4, 4-4 Atlantic Coast Conference), which needed the victory badly after losing four of its previous five.

Bynum, who missed seven of eight shots in the opening half, finished with 19 points. He hit the game-winner after Florida State made a 12-point run, going on a 19-7 run, tying it 61-61 on a three-pointer by Von Weaver with 1:29 remaining.

Glue: Safety leading team by example

GLUE, FROM BACK PAGE

to stay here, you need to listen to me," Gay said. "I have been listening to him and now I am starting in the Super Bowl. So it has meant a lot to me."

The secondary was New England's biggest question heading into its first playoff game, against the Indianapolis Colts and their record-setting quarterback. Manning was unable to take advantage of them, and the Patriots won 20-3.

"It's a great testament to him. He's able to really just go out there and play well regardless of who is next to him," linebacker Don Davis said of Harrison. "He's like, 'Yeah, put him there and then we're going to get it done.'"

When he joined the Patriots in 2003, Harrison brought with him a reputation as one of the dirtiest players in the league.

But a month later, Harrison had so impressed his teammates that a group asked coach Bill Belichick to make him one of the defensive captains.

Harrison remains one of the most-frequently fined players in



New England Patriots strong safety Rodney Harrison catches his breath during practice in Jacksonville, Fla., on Wednesday.

the NFL, having been docked more than \$350,000 for illegal hits in his career. The letters from NFL discipline czar Gene Washington have become so routine that Harrison doesn't read them; the fines are automatically deducted from his paychecks.

"I don't worry about the money.... I'm going to keep playing the way I play," Harrison said. "Of course it pays off because they look for you and they know who you are — even though they don't vote for you [for the Pro Bowl] and you don't have many friends around the league."

"But, when you get that respect and you have guys come up to you and tell you, 'I don't like you, but I love the way you play,' that's all you ask for."

Browns donate tickets for big game to Marines

BY MARK LONG

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — As he recovered from a wound in Iraq, Marine Lance Cpl. Michael Berninger figured he would watch the Super Bowl on television and cheer for his New England Patriots.

Super Bowl notes

It turns out that he will have a much better seat for the game.

The Cleveland Browns have donated Super Bowl tickets to 50 U.S. Marines who recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan or are about to be deployed for active duty in those nations.

"I have never been so surprised and grateful for a gift like this, even on Christmas morning," said Berninger of Martha's Vineyard, Mass. "I am definitely a New Englander and have never been to a college game or an NFL game, let alone the Super Bowl. I can't wait to go root on my team."

The Browns' donation — Super Bowl tickets are priced at \$500

and \$600 apiece — will go to Marines currently serving at Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Parris Island, S.C.; Reserve Command in New Orleans and U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Fla. The donation is an extension of the club's "Hats Off to Our Heroes" program that honors members of the military.

"It was a wonderful act to see an organization that appreciates the contributions these young Marines are making to our country," said Col. Jim Walker, secretary to the commandant of the Marine Corps. "This will truly be a special event for Marines who otherwise never would have thought about attending a Super Bowl."

The Browns have a special connection to the Corps. Late owner Al Lerner was a first lieutenant in the Marines from 1955-57. The club flies the Marine flag outside its team offices in Berea, Ohio, participates in the "Toys for Tots" program and Marine jets do ceremonial fly-overs as part of pregame festivities during the season.

"This is but a small gesture for some of the men and women of our country who have so selfless-

ly devoted themselves to the service of our nation," the club said in a statement.

Don't give up your day job

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Montana, along with other NFL stars, hope to match their football prowess with their singing ability for the Super Bowl.

The current and former players collaborated to sing "Tomorrow" from the Broadway musical "Annie," and the rendition will air as a 60-second commercial during the game.

A similar commercial featuring Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and coach Bill Parcells aired last year.

Others singing this year include: Tampa Bay coach Jon Gruden, Cincinnati coach Marvin Lewis and receiver Chad Johnson, New York Jets running back Curtis Martin, Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair, Dallas safety Roy Williams, Minnesota quarterback Daunte Culpepper, and Jacksonville quarterback Byron Leftwich and offensive lineman Ephraim Salaam.

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Smith's long run has finally ended

Cowboys great formally retires

By DAVE GOLDBERG
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — NFL career rushing leader Emmitt Smith retired Thursday, calling his 15-year career "a tremendous ride."

Smith, who starred for the Dallas Cowboys for 13 seasons and spent the past two with Arizona, made the announcement at the site of the Super Bowl — a fitting spot for a three-time champion.

"I've given everything I can possible to the game, on and off the field," Smith said.

Wearing a pinstripe suit — blue, of course — Smith thanked dozens of people from Pee Wee football to the Cardinals and every stop in between. He broke down several times and tears streamed down his face as he clutched his wife's hand.

"The memories that I have, the relationships that I'm taking away from the game, are something dear and something I will take with me for the rest of my life," he said. "I'm moving on to another chapter in my life and

that's a chapter I'm looking forward to."

Smith said he planned to pursue some business opportunities but vowed to stay close to the game and give something back to the fans.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, one of the many people Smith thanked, gave the best reason for the long list of salutations.

"When you've established yourself as royalty, then you have to mention everybody," Jones said. "That's the price you pay."

The 35-year-old Smith ran for 18,355 yards and 164 touchdowns, both NFL records. He rushed for 937 yards and nine touchdowns for the Cardinals this season.

Smith said the Cardinals had decided not to re-sign him for next year.



Emmitt Smith said Arizona's decision not to re-sign him for next season "made my decision a whole lot easier."

"That made my decision a whole lot easier," he said, adding that he turned down offers to continue his career elsewhere. "I have a home. It's with my family."

Smith was more consistent than spectacular, a running back who could be relied on to get tough yards.

He rushed for 1,000 yards or more every year between 1991

and 1991. He led the NFL in rushing in 1991, 1992 and 1995, and in touchdowns in three seasons.

Despite his impressive statistics, he won just two major awards in 15 seasons — NFL MVP in 1993 and the Super Bowl MVP that same season, when he rushed for 130 yards and two touchdowns in the Cowboys' 30-13 victory over Buffalo in Atlanta.

He won those despite missing the first two games in a contract dispute with Jones. Smith finished the year with perhaps his greatest game, an overtime victory over the New York Giants at the Meadowlands. The Cowboys and Giants were 11-4. The winner got the NFC East title, home-field advantage in the playoffs and a first-round bye. The loser got a wild-card game the following week.

Smith separated his shoulder in the third quarter but returned to the game. He carried the ball on nine of the Cowboys' 11 plays in the extra period — at one point raising his aching shoulder to stiff-arm Lawrence Taylor on his final run, which set up Eddie Murray's game-winning field goal.

He finished with 229 total yards and a touchdown on 32 carries, along with 10 receptions — the heaviest workload in team history. Then he spent the night in a hospital.

Had the Cowboys lost that game, Smith probably wouldn't have been able to play the following week in a wild-card game. That would have made the road much more difficult in what turned out to be the Cowboys' second of three Super Bowl victories in four seasons.

"Emmitt has never forgot he was part of a team and what the team meant," Jones said. "You're place in our franchise has always been secure."



| Emmitt Smith's rush to the top | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------|------|-----|-----|-----------|------|----|----|
| Year, Team | Regular Season | | | | | Receiving | | | |
| | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | TD |
| 1988, Dallas | 281 | 937 | 3.3 | 1 | 24 | 238 | 9.9 | 0 | 0 |
| 1991, Dallas | 305 | 1563 | 4.3 | 12 | 49 | 258 | 5.3 | 1 | 1 |
| 1992, Dallas | 319 | 1713 | 4.6 | 18 | 35 | 375 | 10.7 | 1 | 1 |
| 1993, Dallas | 283 | 1486 | 5.3 | 9 | 57 | 414 | 7.3 | 1 | 1 |
| 1994, Dallas | 308 | 1484 | 4.8 | 21 | 50 | 341 | 6.8 | 1 | 1 |
| 1995, Dallas | 277 | 1773 | 4.7 | 25 | 62 | 375 | 6.0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1996, Dallas | 327 | 1204 | 3.7 | 2 | 47 | 249 | 5.3 | 3 | 3 |
| 1997, Dallas | 281 | 1074 | 4.1 | 4 | 40 | 238 | 4.4 | 0 | 0 |
| 1998, Dallas | 319 | 1332 | 4.2 | 13 | 27 | 175 | 6.5 | 0 | 0 |
| 1999, Dallas | 292 | 1397 | 4.1 | 1 | 27 | 138 | 5.1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2000, Dallas | 294 | 1203 | 4.1 | 9 | 11 | 79 | 7.2 | 0 | 0 |
| 2001, Dallas | 283 | 1021 | 3.6 | 1 | 17 | 116 | 6.8 | 1 | 1 |
| 2002, Dallas | 254 | 975 | 3.8 | 5 | 16 | 89 | 5.6 | 0 | 0 |
| 2003, Arizona | 160 | 756 | 4.7 | 2 | 14 | 107 | 7.6 | 1 | 1 |
| 2004, Arizona | 267 | 937 | 3.5 | 9 | 15 | 185 | 7.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 4409 | 18355 | 4.2 | 164 | 515 | 3224 | 6.3 | 19 | 19 |
| Year, Team | Playoffs | | | | | Receiving | | | |
| | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | TD |
| 1991, Dallas | 41 | 185 | 4.5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2.0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1992, Dallas | 11 | 35 | 4.7 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 8.0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1993, Dallas | 66 | 280 | 4.2 | 3 | 13 | 138 | 10.6 | 1 | 1 |
| 1994, Dallas | 14 | 98 | 4.2 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 10.0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1996, Dallas | 39 | 196 | 5.0 | 2 | 7 | 24 | 3.4 | 0 | 0 |
| 1998, Dallas | 16 | 74 | 4.6 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 10.0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1999, Dallas | 15 | 99 | 6.6 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 14.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 322 | 1468 | 4.6 | 16 | 42 | 334 | 8.0 | 1 | 1 |

NFL career rushing leader Emmitt Smith (22) vows to stay close to the game of football.

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The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — All-Pro defensive lineman Richard Seymour completed his first full practice in nearly six weeks Wednesday and should play for New England in the Super Bowl against Philadelphia.

"He did everything we asked him to do, so he's good to go," coach Bill Belichick said.

Seymour, an All-Pro the past two years and a Pro Bowler in three of his four years in the NFL, injured his left knee Dec. 26 against the New York Jets and missed the past three games, two in the postseason. Jarvis Green started in Seymour's absence, recording 15 tackles, a sack and a forced fumble.

Seymour has been one of the big playmakers for New England



Briefs

the past two seasons. He had five sacks and a forced fumble this year, and returned a Drew Bledsoe fumble 68 yards for a touchdown against Buffalo.

A co-captain on defense, Seymour plays both ends in the 3-4 defense and tackle in pass-rushing situations.

In some respects, he is the defensive equivalent of Terrell Owens, the Philadelphia wide receiver who said Tuesday he will play after being out since Dec. 19 with an ankle injury.

Garrett hired as Cowboys QB coach

DAVIE, Fla. — The Miami Dol-

phins hired Jason Garrett as quarterbacks coach Wednesday.

Garrett played with three NFL teams over a 12-year career that culminated in a six-game stint with the Dolphins in 2004. Best known for being Troy Aikman's backup in Dallas during the 1990s, Garrett threw his last NFL pass in 1999.

In parts of 40 career games, Garrett completed 165 of 294 passes for 2,042 yards with 11 touchdowns and five interceptions.

Titans express interest in USC coordinator

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee coach Jeff Fisher wants to talk with Southern California offensive coordinator Norm Chow about the Titans' coordinator job.

Fisher, a USC alumnus, is look-

ing for an offensive coordinator after losing Mike Heimerdinger to the New York Jets last month.

He has interviewed Titans assistant head coach George Heinszaw and quarterbacks coach Craig Johnson.

Fisher had held off talking with college coaches until national signing day passed on Wednesday.

Fisher said on radio Thursday morning that he's trying to talk with Chow. A Titans spokesman said Chow is one of many coaches in whom Fisher is interested.

Chow, 58, has helped, guided Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart into Heisman Trophy winners at two-time defending national champion USC. Chow spent 27 years at Brigham Young working with quarterbacks such as Heisman Trophy winner Tim Letermer, Steve Young and Jim McMahon — a former teammate of Fisher's.

Bettman, Goodenow are returning to talks

NHL commissioner, union chief invited back after latest rejected plan

By IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gary Bettman and Bob Goodenow are returning to the bargaining table. Optimism is still absent from negotiations aimed at ending the NHL lockout.

The commissioner and union chief will attend Thursday's negotiating session in New York, one day after the players' association rejected the league's latest salary-cap proposal.

Nearly five months into the lockout, the NHL says there is no other solution. And now time is about to run out.

"We're at the end time-wise in terms of being able to continue this process and still play games this season, so there's not a lot of time flexibility," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly said.

The union needed only a few hours in Newark, N.J., on Wednesday to turn down the proposal that would place minimums and maximums on what the 30 clubs

can spend on player costs. That didn't quite put an end to the hope for hockey, but it was pushed that far to the forefront.

"I don't want to mislead anyone and suggest I'm optimistic," players' association senior director Ted Saksin said. "There is nothing over the last few years in the way they've approached things that would lead me to have any sense of optimism."

But the union immediately invited the league back to the table, and wanted commissioner Bettman and Goodenow to join the discussions for the first time since Dec. 14. There were five less-formal negotiating sessions without the two leaders the past two weeks.

"We've gone as far as we can go in our small-group setting and we think it's important to have Bob and Gary join us," NHLPA senior director Ted Saksin said.

But what does it all mean? The NHL is committed to getting cost certainty, and the players' association

can spend on player costs. That didn't quite put an end to the hope for hockey, but it was pushed that far to the forefront.

"There's no particular sense of optimism here," Daly said.

"The framework is still something that they have consistently suggested that they are not willing to accept."

So it makes sense to get Bettman and Goodenow involved as the days dwindle. There can't be a deal without them signing on to it, so keeping the leaders away no longer serves a real purpose.

"I think we have created a more open dialogue and we would expect that will continue with them in the room," Daly said.

It is unclear what will happen Thursday when Bettman and Daly join Goodenow and Saksin, with a lawyer on each side. The way things have gone, there might not be time for the parties to reach an agreement to save the 2005-06 season.

"There isn't much in this offer that's attractive to us or that we consider fair or necessary for the sport," Saksin said.

The lockout reached its 140th day Wednesday, and has forced the cancellation of 762 of the 1,230 regular-season games, plus the All-Star Game. The NHL is in danger of becoming the first major North American sports league to lose an entire season to a labor dispute.

The NHL proposed a six-year deal that contained a cap that would force teams to spend at least \$32 million on player costs but no more than \$42 million — including benefits.

It won't be presented to the players for a full vote, since Saksin said the offer is nowhere near what the association is looking for.

But Bettman has said that teams lost more than \$1.8 billion over 10 years and that management will not agree to a deal without a defined relationship between revenue and salaries.



Sammy Sosa

Baltimore suits Sosa already

By DAVID GINSBURG

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — He signed autographs, praised manager Lee Mazzilli and took great care in avoiding use of the word "I" when discussing his goals for this year.

Still smarting from the backlash of his final days with the Chicago Cubs, Sammy Sosa was determined to make a good first impression with the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday. He really didn't have to try so hard, because the Orioles clearly were delighted to have him on their side.

The trade that sent Sosa from the Cubs became official after Commissioner Bud Selig approved the deal and the slugger passed his physical. Chicago received second baseman Jerry Hairston Jr. and two minor leaguers, second baseman Mike Ponder and right-handed pitcher Dave Crutcher.

Sosa, 36, has 574 home runs, seventh on the career list, and will almost certainly join this exclusive 600-home club this season. He insisted that reaching the milestone is secondary to becoming an integral part of his new club.

"The 600 is going to come. What's important to me is to have a great relationship with my manager and the whole team," he said. "I'm not thinking about 600. I'm thinking about being comfortable, relaxed and to be loved again."

Sosa was once revered in Chicago, but the relationship between him and the fans began to deteriorate after the season he was caught using a corked bat. Last season was worse — Sosa complained about being dropped to sixth in the batting order by manager Dusty Baker and was cut from the team before the conclusion of the final game.

The Cubs didn't want to go through more of the same this year, so they literally paid the Orioles to take him off their hands.

"I feel sad that it had to end the way that it did," Cubs General Manager Jim Hendry said. "Obviously, he made some mistakes late in the year. But he really deserves a second chance. He has been cast upon him the last couple of months."

Chicago made an immediate move to shore up its lineup, agreeing to a one-year contract with Jeremy Burre that guarantees the outfielder \$5 million.

World Series ball arrives at Fenway

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The ball used for the final out of Boston's first World Series title in 86 years got star treatment when it was brought to Fenway Park on Thursday.

With a nearby meter maid ticketing cars but few fans, if any, looking on, two armored guards carried the ball in a black canvas bag to a red carpeted area that had been laid out along Walkway K — and brought it inside the ballpark.

The ball has been the subject of a tussle between the team and its former first baseman, Doug Mientkiewicz, who caught the final out and kept it. While ownership hasn't been resolved, he agreed last week to loan the ball to the Red Sox for at least one year.

"I want the fans to see it, and that's what both the Red Sox and I agreed on," Mientkiewicz said last week after he was traded to the New York Mets.

"They waited a long time to see that ball and to live it. The fact that I had it was just so we could keep it and give it to the fans and let them see it."

Rhyming keeping coach; part-owner out as CEO

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Ashley McElhinley is remaining as coach of the Nashville Rhymers, after the Atlanta Braves traded him to one of its part-owners didn't have the authority to fire her.

"We understand any disappointment and anger our fans felt from the incident," general manager Daniel Bucher said in a statement.

"But we now ask them to please put this in context with the whole season and show their support for our coach and the team." The Rhymers needs our fans to help us finish the season successfully."

Sports briefs

McElhinley is the first female to coach a men's professional team. In Anthony, only the Atlanta Braves have three owners, attempted to fire McElhinley on Saturday night during the third quarter of the Rhymers' 110-109 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

After the coach ignored Anthony's demands to bench a player, Security guards escorted Anthony off the court.

Bucher also announced Thursday that Tony Bucher, his brother and Anthony's husband, is replacing Anthony as the Rhymers' chief executive officer.

German soccer federation: four matches fixed

BERLIN — Four German league games were fixed and at least 10 players were involved in a betting scam that has rocked the country as it prepares for the 2006 World Cup, soccer authorities said Thursday.

Rupert Hoyer, the referee at the heart of the widening scandal, implicated three other referees, the German soccer federation said.

The federation said Hoyer officiated four rigged games: two regional games, a second-division game and a German Cup game between first-division Hamburger SV and second-division Paderborn. International soccer's governing body has told Germany to resolve this case quickly, with the sport's showcase event a little more than 16 months away.

For the first time, federation officials were able to examine files of the police investigation.

Berlin prosecutors have said four referees and 14 players were among 25 people suspected of fixing at least 10 games. On Thursday, authorities identified Roman

nia's Laurentiu-Aurelian Reghecamp as one of the players. He started the season with Energie Cottbus and moved midseason to Borussia Mönchengladbach, another second-division club.

Police raided the homes of 19 people Wednesday and seized bank accounts and property worth about \$3.17 million. There were no arrests.

Hoyer has admitted taking money from a Croatian-controlled betting ring to rig at least four games. He also accused referees Juergen Jansen and Dominik Marks of rigging two games each, the federation said. He also implicated a third referee, Felix Zwayer.

Jansen, whose home was searched, was in charge of the only Bundesliga game believed to be involved. Jansen, who has refereed 147 Bundesliga games, told the Passauer Neue Presse newspaper: "I didn't do what I'm accused of. Let me fall over dead if that's not true."

The federation defended its decision to suspend the three referees, saying they are under suspicion in the police investigation and had been implicated by Hoyer.

Federation co-president Theo Zwanziger said the number of players who admitted involvement in the fixing was growing. The federation has been accused of ignoring warnings from bookmakers several months ago. Zwanziger insisted his group is "not in the position to delve deep into criminal activities."

BYU's Miles reprimanded for kicking Utah player

PROVO, Utah — BYU forward Chris Miles was reprimanded Thursday by the Mountain West Conference for kicking a Utah player during a game between the rivals.

"This type of behavior is unacceptable for a student-athlete in the Mountain West Conference," commissioner Craig Thompson said in a statement. "All constituents of the MWC are expected to understand and adhere to the appropriate standards of conduct."

Miles was left in a Monday night's game, Utah's Andrew Bogut went in for a two-handed dunk and hung on the rim. He came down and landed on Miles, and Bogut was hurt while both were on the floor.

"I went to dunk it and hung on the rim long enough I think," Bogut said after the game. "When I went down, he was still there and I fell on him. I just tried to stay cool."

Miles was called for a technical, and BYU's Mike Hall and Utah's Bryant Markson were also given technicals after exchanging words.

Davenport opens with victory in Pan Pacific Open

TOKYO — Top-ranked Lindsay Davenport began her title defense in the Pan Pacific Open on Thursday, beating Japan's Saori Obata 6-4, 6-2 in a second-round match.

Davenport, seeking her fifth Pan Pacific title, was playing her first singles match since losing to Serena Williams in the Australian Open final Saturday.

Russian Elena Likhovtseva and Elena Dementieva also advanced.

The third-seeded Likhovtseva beat American Jill Craybas 7-5, 4-6, 6-2, and the fourth-seeded Dementieva routed Japan's Akiko Morigami 6-2, 6-2.

In their second-round matches, Iveta Benesova of the Czech Republic 3-6, 7-5, 6-4, while eighth-seeded Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia recovered from a slow start to defeat Russia's Maria Kirilenko 4-6, 6-0, 6-2.

SPORTS



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Pats' subs emerge

Vet Harrison provides DBs a safety net

BY JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — The New England Patriots ended last year's Super Bowl with two subs in the secondary.

This year, they're starting the game that way.

The Patriots will face the Philadelphia Eagles with a patchwork defensive backfield that features a converted receiver, an undrafted free agent and a guy who was out of football most of the year.

"We've got a lot of talented guys on our defense that are really versatile," linebacker Willie McGinest said. "I think that's what makes us so special."

It goes beyond the secondary. Most of the linebackers played on the defensive line in college.

"If you're backing up a guy, you've got to definitely be ready to step in at any time," McGinest said. "First string, second string — whatever — everybody gets reps, everybody prepares hard, everybody understands the game plan because we've been in situations in the last few years where you have two guys go down and other guys step in and play really well."

The Patriots won their second NFL title in three years last season, holding off the Carolina Panthers in the Super Bowl despite losing both safeties during the game — Rodney Harrison to a broken arm and Eugene Wilson to a groin injury.

This year, the problem is with the cornerbacks. Tyrone Poole was injured in Week 3, and Ty Law, a four-time Pro Bowl selection, went out four games later.

The Patriots have since subbed and shuffled and managed to finish 14-2 for the second consecutive season. In the playoffs, they shut down NFL MVP Peyton Manning and rookie of the year Ben Roethlisberger in back-to-back weeks.

Harrison and Wilson have settled in at safety, with rookie Randall Gay and Asante Samuel at the corners, backed up by wide receiver Troy Brown and Hank Poteat, a former Steelers special teamer who had gone back to get his college degree when the Patriots signed him last month.

The defensive line features end Richard Seymour, an All-Pro who missed the last three games with a leg injury. McGinest plays linebacker with Ted Johnson, Mike Vrabel and Tedy Bruschi, who



New England Patriots safety Rodney Harrison returns an interception 87 yards for a touchdown in AFC Championship game. Harrison "is the glue of our secondary," said rookie cornerback Randall Gay.

was added to the Pro Bowl this week.

"Guys like that, most teams would die to have," Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb said. "No one really talks about them."

Instead, most of the attention has been paid to the secondary

and its struggles to make it from week to week. The one constant has been Harrison.

"Rodney is the glue of our secondary," said Gay, who went from an undrafted free agent to starter because of the injuries. "He has more experience than all of us together."

Harrison passed that on to his teammates.

"Right after Ty got hurt, he came to me and told me that I was the starter and that he expected me to play like a starter. ... He would always tell me, 'If you want

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Seventh-ranked Wake Forest hangs on to knock off rival Duke

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Sosa, looking 'to be loved again,' officially joins Orioles

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